



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10826**



Introduced by **HON. BAMBI B. EMANO & HON. JENNIFER A. LAGBAS**

AN ACT DECLARING THE KAA-HA-AN FESTIVAL AS THE OFFICIAL FESTIVAL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF KINOQUITAN, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, TO BE CELEBRATED ANNUALLY DURING THE ARAW NG KINOQUITAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Municipality of Kinoguitan, Province of Misamis Oriental, is home to one such celebration—the Kaa-ha-an Festival, its official annual thanksgiving and cultural festival. Originally adopted through Municipal Ordinance No. 362, Series of 2005, the festival has, for more than two decades, embodied the municipality's enduring gratitude for its abundant natural resources, fruitful harvests, rich marine wealth, cultural heritage, and the resilience of its people.

The term "Kaa-ha-an" is derived from the Cebuano root word "aha," meaning gain, harvest, yield, or abundance, combined with the circumfix "ka-...-an," signifying a state or condition. Together, the term represents prosperity, plenty, and a bountiful harvest, reflecting the aspirations and identity of the people of Kinoguitan.

Beyond its linguistic significance, the festival has become an important institution that celebrates the municipality's identity through cultural performances, indigenous presentations, agricultural and fisheries exhibitions, trade fairs, culinary showcases, sports competitions, and civic activities. It provides an avenue for younger generations to appreciate and preserve local history, customs, and traditions.

The Kaa-ha-an Festival likewise stimulates tourism and local economic activity by attracting visitors and creating opportunities for farmers, fisherfolk, artisans, performers, transport providers, accommodation establishments, restaurants, market vendors, and micro, small, and medium enterprises. It contributes meaningfully to livelihood generation and sustainable local development.

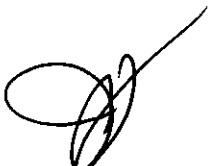
Despite its long history and continuing contribution to cultural preservation, the Kaa-ha-an Festival remains recognized only through a municipal ordinance. National recognition through an Act of Congress will institutionalize the festival, strengthen cultural preservation, encourage wider participation among government agencies and stakeholders, promote heritage tourism, and reinforce community pride and unity.

Ultimately, this measure recognizes that local festivals are enduring symbols of the Filipino people's identity, resilience, and aspirations. By granting national recognition to the Kaa-ha-an Festival, Congress affirms the importance of preserving local traditions while promoting inclusive economic growth, cultural sustainability, and national unity.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. BAMBL B. EMANO
2nd District of Misamis Oriental



HON. JENNIFER A. LAGBAS
1st District of Misamis Oriental



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SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the “Kaa-ha-an Festival Act of Kinoguitan, Misamis Oriental.”

SECTION. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to preserve and promote the cultural heritage, traditions, and identity of local communities and encourage activities that foster unity, gratitude, and pride.

SECTION. 3. Adoption of the Festival. The annual thanksgiving and cultural festival of the Municipality of Kinoguitan, Misamis Oriental shall officially be known as the “Kaa-ha-an Festival.” It shall be celebrated annually during the Araw ng Kinoguitan.

SECTION. 4. Implementation. The Local Government Unit of Kinoguitan, in coordination with the Department of Tourism, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and other concerned agencies, shall implement this Act.

SECTION. 5. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION. 6. Repealing Clause. All laws, ordinances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION. 7. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,