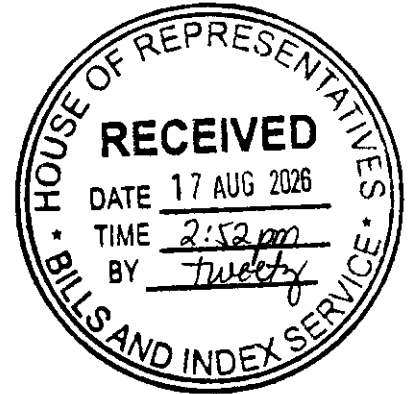




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10828



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

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE TAGULAMBONG FESTIVAL AS THE OFFICIAL FESTIVAL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MAGSAYSAY, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, DECLARING EVERY 1ST OF JULY AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY THEREIN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Municipality of Magsaysay, Province of Misamis Oriental, is a community whose identity has been shaped by a rich history, vibrant indigenous traditions, abundant natural resources, and a resilient people whose cultural heritage continues to thrive through generations. Formerly known as "Linugos", the municipality was created by virtue of Executive Order No. 128 on July 1, 1948, and was later renamed Magsaysay through Republic Act No. 1653 in honor of President Ramon Magsaysay.

Long before the municipality became a political subdivision, the area served as one of the ancestral homelands of the Higaonon people. Their customs, governance systems, oral traditions, spirituality, agriculture, and stewardship of nature form the historical and cultural foundation of Magsaysay.

Among the municipality's most enduring cultural traditions is the Tagulambong Festival. The word "Tagulambong" traces its origin to Apo Tagulambong, a revered Higaonon ancestor. The term combines "Tagu," signifying something hidden, sacred, or spiritually protected, and "Lambong," denoting abundance, prosperity, productivity, and a bountiful harvest. Together, the word symbolizes wisdom, resilience, spirituality, and harmonious coexistence with nature.

The Tagulambong Festival is more than an annual celebration. It is a living expression of indigenous identity that preserves ritual dances, music, oral traditions, traditional attire, indigenous governance, agricultural practices, crafts, and community values. It strengthens

appreciation of the municipality's history while providing younger generations with a meaningful understanding of their cultural roots.

The 1987 Constitution mandates the State to preserve and promote Filipino culture and recognizes the rights of indigenous cultural communities to preserve their institutions and traditions. This measure likewise advances the objectives of Republic Act No. 8371 (Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act) and Republic Act No. 10066 (National Cultural Heritage Act), both of which encourage the preservation of indigenous knowledge systems and cultural heritage.

Institutionalizing the Tagulambong Festival will likewise stimulate tourism, encourage investments, create livelihood opportunities for farmers, fisherfolk, artisans, performers, and MSMEs, and strengthen eco-cultural tourism in Misamis Oriental. Through partnerships among the Department of Tourism, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, DILG, the Provincial Government, and the Municipality of Magsaysay, the festival can become a nationally recognized cultural tourism destination.

Ultimately, this bill seeks not merely to institutionalize an annual festival but to preserve a living heritage that embodies the identity, resilience, spirituality, and aspirations of the people of Magsaysay. In doing so, it safeguards an important part of the nation's cultural heritage for future generations.

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



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



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



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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title - This Act shall be known as the 'Tagulambong Festival Act of Magsaysay, Misamis Oriental.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy - It is the policy of the State to preserve, protect, promote and develop the cultural heritage of the Higaonon people through the institutionalization of the Tagulambong Festival.

SECTION 3. Official Festival - The Tagulambong Festival is hereby declared the official festival of the Municipality of Magsaysay, Misamis Oriental.

SECTION 4. Separability Clause - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause - All inconsistent laws, rules and regulations are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation

Approved,