



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

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10829



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

AN ACT DECLARING THE GINATAAN FESTIVAL AS THE OFFICIAL FESTIVAL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MEDINA, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, DECLARING EVERY 21ST OF APRIL AS A SPECIAL NON WORKING HOLIDAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Ginataan Festival is the official cultural and tourism festival of the Municipality of Medina, Province of Misamis Oriental. Celebrated annually in conjunction with Araw ng Medina, it commemorates the municipality's creation as an independent municipality pursuant to Executive Order No. 129 while honoring the resilience, industry, and shared heritage of its people.

The festival derives its name from the Filipino word "ginataan," referring to dishes prepared with coconut milk (gata). This is a fitting symbol of Medina's thriving coconut industry, one of the municipality's principal agricultural resources and a major source of livelihood. The coconut tree has long been regarded as the "Tree of Life," representing abundance, resilience, sustainability, and prosperity – qualities that define the Medinanhon spirit.

Far beyond a festive gathering, the Ginataan Festival serves as a living cultural institution. Through ritual performances, street dancing, culinary exhibitions, trade fairs, visual arts, indigenous cultural presentations, music, and civic activities, it preserves the municipality's history while transmitting its traditions to future generations. The celebration likewise strengthens community participation, encourages appreciation of local identity, and promotes cultural education among the youth.

The measure is fully consistent with Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution, Republic Act No. 7160 (Local Government Code), Republic Act No. 9593 (Tourism Act of 2009), Republic Act No. 10066 (National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009), and Republic Act No. 7356 creating the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. These laws collectively recognize the importance of safeguarding local heritage, promoting tourism, supporting creative industries, and encouraging local economic development.

Institutionalizing the Ginataan Festival will provide a permanent legal framework for its observance, ensuring sustained government support, inter-agency coordination, and funding. It will promote Medina as a cultural and eco-tourism destination, generate livelihood for farmers, fisherfolk, artisans, performers, and MSMEs, encourage investment, preserve traditional knowledge, and reinforce the municipality's historical identity.

The bill likewise recognizes the festival as a vehicle for preserving Medina's agricultural heritage, particularly the importance of the coconut industry, while encouraging innovation in local products, gastronomy, creative industries, and sustainable tourism. By integrating culture with economic development, the festival becomes an instrument for inclusive growth.

Ultimately, this proposed legislation seeks not merely to recognize an annual celebration but to preserve the living heritage of Medina and ensure that future generations continue to value the traditions, history, and aspirations that define the Medinanhon people.

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



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



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



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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 'Ginataan Festival Act of Medina, Misamis Oriental.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy - It is the policy of the State to preserve, protect and promote the cultural heritage, history, agricultural traditions, and tourism potential of the Municipality of Medina through the institutionalization of the Ginataan Festival.

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

SECTION 4. Annual Celebration - The festival shall be celebrated annually together with the official Charter Day celebration of the Municipality of Medina.

SECTION 5. Implementing Agencies - The Municipality of Medina, Department of Tourism, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and other concerned agencies shall jointly implement this Act.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause - All laws, rules, regulations and ordinances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Effectivity - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,