



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

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10831**



Introduced by Representative Bambi B. Emano

AN ACT

**DECLARING THE MATAHUM FESTIVAL AS THE OFFICIAL FESTIVAL OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF GITAGUM, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL,
DECLARING EVERY 3RD SUNDAY OF JANUARY AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING
HOLIDAY THEREIN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

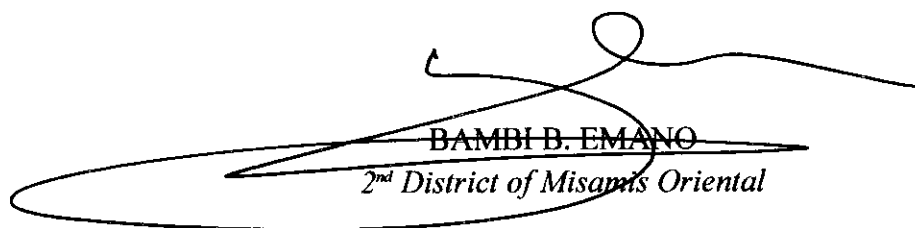
Local festivals serve as vital expressions of a community's cultural identity, shared history, and collective aspirations. They preserve traditions, strengthen social bonds, foster a sense of belonging, and promote appreciation of the rich and diverse heritage of the Filipino people. Beyond cultural preservation, these celebrations contribute to local development by creating opportunities for tourism promotion, economic growth, and community participation. Consistent with this, Section 15, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations. This constitutional mandate highlights the importance of supporting and institutionalizing community celebrations that preserve local traditions, values, and the distinct identity of every Filipino community.

The Matahum Festival underscores the Municipality of Gitagum's commitment to preserving its cultural heritage, strengthening community solidarity, and promoting sustainable local development. The festival reflects Gitagum's rich cultural heritage, natural beauty, and traditions, while providing a meaningful platform to celebrate the unique identity of its people. It aims to promote local pride and unity by bringing residents together in a shared celebration, advance economic and tourism development by showcasing the town's unique attributes and natural attractions, and highlight its local bounty and talents through various cultural, historical, and tourism-related activities.

This bill seeks to declare the Matahum Festival as the official festival of the Municipality of Gitagum, Province of Misamis Oriental, declare every 3rd Sunday of January as a special non-working holiday therein and provide the necessary funding to ensure its continued celebration and sustainability. Through this measure, the Municipality of Gitagum affirms its

commitment to preserving its cultural heritage, promoting community participation, showcasing its natural and cultural assets, and advancing local cultural and tourism development for the benefit of present and future generations.

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


BAMBI B. EMAMO
2nd 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. This Act shall be known as the “**Matahum Festival Act.**”

SECTION 2. The Matahum Festival is hereby declared an official festival in the Municipality of Gitahum, Province of Misamis Oriental.

SECTION 3. EVERY 3RD Sunday of January is hereby declared a special non-working holiday in the Municipality of Gitagum, in celebration of the Matahum Festival. This is to allow the people of Gitagum to fully participate in the said festival in recognition of and to honor its cultural significance, thereby enabling them to celebrate their shared identity, heritage, and traditions.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,