

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4831



INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE CHERYL P. DELOSOMONTALLA

AN ACT

DECLARING JULY 27 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NATIONAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9645, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "COMMEMORATION OF THE FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF IGLESIA NI CRISTO ACT"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure proposes to declare July 27 of every year a special national nonworking holiday in the Philippines.


Holidays like Christmas day (December 25), Maunday Thursday, Good Friday and Eid'l Fitr (Feast of Ramadan) are religious in nature and significance which our country recognize and celebrate. These holidays are celebrated not only for their religious meaning but also in recognition of their contribution to our culture, national identity, values, norms and mores as well as its socio-cultural development.

Iglesia ni Cristo (INC), with a membership of more than five percent (5%) of the country's population, is considered to be the third largest religious organization in the country, having around 4,800 local congregations and has members in around 100 countries.

Despite the immeasurable contribution and participation in the socio-historical and cultural development of the country, the enactment of Republic Act No. 9645 remains to be a special national working holiday. As such, the law is lacking in providing the INC and its members the appropriate recognition and acknowledgement that they deserve: to have a better chance to significantly celebrate their founding anniversary.

This bill intends to grant the Iglesia Ni Cristo the recognition that it truly deserves and provide the appropriate opportunity for its church and members to fully celebrate their founding anniversary every July 27 of each year.

Approval of this bill is earnestly sought as this has already been approved on third reading and transmitted to the Senate during the Eighteenth Congress.


CHERYL P. DELOSOMONTALLA
Representative
2nd District, Zambales

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 9645 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 3. *National Holiday.* – July 27 of every year is hereby declared [as] a special national [working] **NON-WORKING** holiday in commemoration of the founding anniversary of the Iglesia ni Cristo in the Philippines.”

SEC. 2. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,