

14 MAY 13 P3:25

SENATE

S. B. No. 2224

RECEIVED BY: *f*

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

AN ACT
DECLARING JULY 27 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NATIONAL NON-
WORKING HOLIDAY IN COMMEMORATION OF THE FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY
OF THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO IN THE PHILIPPINES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) is a Christian religion founded in the Philippines by Brother Felix Y. Manalo when it established its first congregation in Punta, Sta. Ana, Manila. On July 27, 1914, the INC was registered with the Philippine government. Brother Felix became the first Executive Minister who soon trained ministers to assist him in the propagation of the Church.

The first ecclesiastical district was created in Pampanga ten years after its foundation while its first worship service outside the Philippines was held in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA in July 1968. This signaled the beginnings of its expansion all over the world.

After a century since its foundation, the INC membership now comprises 110 nationalities living in 100 countries and territories in all the continents of the world. Aside from the United States of America where it has a strong presence, the Church has also existing active congregations in Cuba, Mexico, Aruba, England, Italy, Israel, South Africa and the Southeast Asian nations of Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Vietnam and Malaysia, among other nations.

In the Philippines, the INC provides religious services through the 104 ecclesiastical districts all over the country. It is the third largest religion in the country after the Roman Catholic Church and Islam.

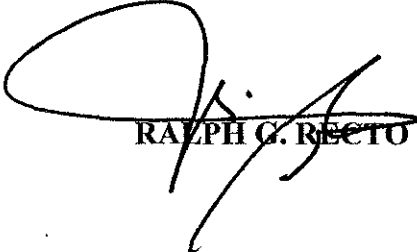
The INC faith is anchored on Jesus Christ as depicted in the Holy Bible, which the members integrate in their day-to-day lives. The responsibility for the Church teachings rests in a centralized administration that instills discipline and unity of faith and practice in accordance with the Bible and Church rules.

The INC emphasizes respect for human authority or the duly constituted government and directs its members to obey the laws. The INC promotes peace and order by teaching its members to obey rules and regulations and restricts them from joining organizations and unions that resort to violence and extra-judicial means to advance its causes.*

* Source of data on INC history and core values: www.incmedia.org

This bill seeks to declare the INC foundation day every July 27 of each year as a non-working special public holiday in order for the millions of its members and together with the Filipino people to celebrate in a more appropriate manner this milestone in the Church history.

This holiday will recognize the contributions of the INC in nurturing the faith of the people as well as its part in fostering nation-building. This celebration will allow the members and our countrymen to draw inspiration from the faith and how it has developed them into good citizens of the country.



RALPH G. RECTO

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



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

1 **SECTION 1.** The twenty seventh (27th) day of July of every year is hereby declared a
2 special national non-working holiday in commemoration of the founding anniversary of the
3 Iglesia ni Cristo (INC).

4 **SEC. 2. Repealing Clause.** –Section 26, Chapter 7, Book I of Executive Order
5 No. 292, as amended, pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9645 and all other
6 laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with
7 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

8 **SEC. 3. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
9 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,