

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

04 AUG -9 P4:58

SENATE
S.B. No. 1671

Introduced by Senators
JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA and LUISA "LOI" P. EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Religious freedom in the Philippines promoted the growth of many religious groups in the country. The Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) is one of these groups.

The Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) was founded on July 27, 1914 by its current leader's father Felix Manalo. The Iglesia's first church in the country was located in Punta, Manila's Santa Ana district after its first converts were baptized in the nearby Pasig River. It has several million members and has expanded considerably to countries in all continents. By some accounts, it is considered the second largest formal religion in the Philippines after Catholicism.

The Iglesia ni Cristo rapidly grew from one church building in Sampaloc, Manila to hundreds of churches around the world and has emerged strong in the United States, Canada, England, Germany, Hawaii, Guam and Hong Kong. This is clearly a strong testament not only to the INC's growth as a religious sector in our society but a manifestation of the resilience of the Filipinos' faith.

The Iglesia ni Cristo uses vernacular languages in teaching and preaching the Gospel. Its law-abiding, disciplined leadership and members have made Iglesia ni Cristo a role model for other religious organizations. Attending not only to the religious needs of its flock, Iglesia ni Cristo also looks after their members' economic and physical well being through socio-economic projects, such as job placements, housing, and education.

The intention of this bill is to declare the 27th day of July of every year as a national holiday in observance of the founding anniversary of the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC).

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


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator


LUISA "LOI" P. EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE TWENTY SEVENTH DAY OF JULY OF EVERY YEAR, A
SPECIAL NATIONAL HOLIDAY, IN OBSERVANCE OF THE FOUNDING
ANNIVERSARY OF THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO (INC) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

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

4 SEC. 2. Section 26, Chapter 7 of Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as the
5 Revised Administrative Code of 1987, is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 "SEC. 26. *Regular Holidays and Nationwide Special Days.* - (1) Unless otherwise
7 modified by law, order or proclamation, the following regular holidays and special
8 days shall be observed in the country:

9 a. Regular Holidays

10	New Year's Day	-	January 1
11	Maundy Thursday	-	Movable Date
12	Good Friday	-	Movable Date
13	<i>Eidul Fitr</i>	-	Movable Date
14	<i>Araw ng Kagitingan</i>	-	April 9

(Bataan and Corregidor Day)

Labor Day - May 1

Independence Day - June 12

INC FOUNDATION DAY - JULY 27

National Heroes Day - Last Sunday of August

Bonifacio Day - November 30

Christmas Day - December 25

Rizal Day - December 30

b. Nationwide Special Holidays

All Saints Day - November 1

Last Day of the Year - December 31

Provided, however, That Eidul Fitr shall be celebrated as a regional holiday in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao."

SEC. 3. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,