

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



23 FEB -6 P3:19

**SENATE**

S. No. 1836

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Introduced by Senator MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID

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**AN ACT  
DECLARING FEBRUARY 21 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING  
HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE TO BE KNOWN AS "ARAW  
NG MARINDUQUE", IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING  
ANNIVERSARY**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Province of Marinduque is a heart-shaped island which lies between the Bondoc Peninsula at the southeastern part of Luzon and the island of Mindoro. It is known to be the "Heart of the Philippines" and home of the Moriones Festival.

Marinduque used to be part of the Batangas Province in the late 1500s. Early in the 17th Century, the island of Marinduque was separated from Batangas and became a part of Mindoro as a corregimiento. In 1671, Marinduque functioned as a province but was later reduced as a Mindoro sub-province. On April 28, 1898, with the overthrow of the last Spanish casadores (Tagalog soldiers), Marinduque declared its separation from Mindoro and from Spanish rule, which was ratified by the ruling class from the different towns of the island-province.

Martin Lardizabal, the military governor of Marinduque's first revolutionary provincial government, led the local struggle.

On May 1, 1901, Act No. 125 was passed by the United States-Philippine Commission, which recognized Marinduque as a full-fledged province. Then after a

year, Act No. 423 was enacted which annexed the island of Mindoro including the island of Lubang (then separated from Province of Cavite) to the Province of Marinduque.

Four months later, or on November 10, 1902, by virtue of Act No. 499, Marinduque was made part of Tayabas (now Quezon). Furthermore, on May 17, 1907, by virtue of Act No. 1649, Marinduque was made a sub-province of Tayabas.

Finally, on February 21, 1920, Act No. 2880 separated the sub-province of Marinduque from Tayabas and re-established the former Province of Marinduque.

A province's founding anniversary is a reminder to the local community about the long-standing culture and traditions of the province. In recognition of this, this bill seeks to designate February 21 of every year as a special non-working holiday in the Province of Marinduque to be known as "Araw ng Marinduque" to commemorate its founding anniversary.

This will also allow its residents and local officials to be given full opportunity to participate in the festivities and ceremonies prepared by the local government.

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



**MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
*Senator*

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "Araw ng Marinduque".

SECTION 2. *Araw ng Marinduque.* — In recognition of its importance to our nation's history and the province's contribution to nation building and national development, the twenty first (21<sup>st</sup>) day of February of every year is hereby declared a special non-working holiday in the Province of Marinduque to be known as the "Araw ng Marinduque".

SECTION 3. *Inter-agency and Multi-sectoral Effort.* — The Local Government of the Province of Marinduque shall serve as the lead agency in the preparation and implementation of the annual program of activities for the observance of the annual Araw ng Marinduque.

To ensure the meaningful observance and celebration of this day, the local counterparts of national government agencies, public schools, state universities and colleges, and employers in the private sector, are encouraged to allow their respective

1 personnel and constituents to participate in any related activity to be held within the  
2 premises of their respective offices or establishments.

3 SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* — In the event that any part, section or  
4 provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a competent court,  
5 the remaining provisions thereby shall remain valid and in full force and effect as if  
6 the sections or provisions so annulled or voided had never been incorporated herein.

7 SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances,  
8 rules and regulations, or parts thereof not consistent with the provisions of this Act  
9 are hereby repealed or modified and/or superseded as case may be by this Act  
10 accordingly.

11 SECTION 6. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
12 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
13 circulation, whichever comes earlier.

14 *Approved,*