

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

23 FEB 14 P 6 :01

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. B. NO. 1879

Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

AN ACT
DECLARING THE HALAMANAN FESTIVAL OF THE MUNICIPALITY
OF GUIGUINTO, PROVINCE OF BULACAN A MAJOR TOURIST
ATTRACTION, AND DECLARING FOR THAT PURPOSE JANUARY 22
OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF GUIGUINTO AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On January 18, 2023, the municipal government of Guiguinto, Bulacan celebrated its 25th Halamanan Festival.¹ Launched in 1998, the festival introduces the feast day of the municipality's patron Saint, San Ildefonso, the saint of farmers. It also highlights the town's major industry, ornamental garden plants and landscaping which is now recognized globally.²

Today, the Festival is a crowd-drawing attraction similar to other festivals like the Panagbenga in Baguio, Sinulog in Cebu, and Dinagyang in Iloilo City.³ Since the passage of Republic Act No. 10816, or the Farm Tourism Development Act of 2016, there has been an increasing interest in agro-tourism.⁴ In fact, Guiguinto's Garden City Multipurpose Cooperative was selected as one of the recipients of technical assistance to be certified as a Farm Tourism site by the Department of Tourism.⁵

Guiguinto's horticulture business is continually expanding, particularly the propagation and business of ornamental plants for landscape purposes.⁶ This robust and vibrant industry paved the way for the municipality's recognition as the Garden

1 Available at: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2023/01/19/news/regions/guiguinto-marks-25th-halamanan-festival/1874885> (Date last accessed: February 6, 2023).

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

4 *Supra* at Note 4.

5 Ibid.

6 Available at: http://www.science.ph/full_story.php?key=126902:guiguinto-aims-to-become-garden-capital-of-phl&type=latest (Date last accessed: February 13, 2023).

Capital of the Philippines.⁷ Amidst the pandemic, Guiguinto actually nurtured a Php1 billion plant industry.⁸

In parallel with its growing horticulture and tourism industry, the municipality of Guiguinto has likewise blossomed into a 1st class municipality in Bulacan. Thus, it is only fitting that Guiguinto and its residents are given ample recognition for their hard work by designating a day for them to commemorate their status as the Garden Capital of the Philippines. For this purpose, this bill seeks to declare January 22nd of every year as a non-working holiday in Guiguinto.

The passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


JOEL VILLANUEVA 

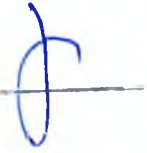
7 Available at: <https://www.guiguinto.gov.ph/about-us/> (Date last accessed: February 6, 2023).

8 Available at: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1545163/pandemic-helps-bulacan-plant-nurseries-gardens-grow-into-p1-b-industry> (Date last accessed: February 6, 2023).

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

23 FEB 14 P6:01

RECEIVED BY: _____



SENATE

S.B. No. 1879

Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

AN ACT
DECLARING THE HALAMANAN FESTIVAL OF THE MUNICIPALITY
OF GUIGUINTO, PROVINCE OF BULACAN A MAJOR TOURIST
ATTRACTION AND DECLARING FOR THAT PURPOSE JANUARY 22
OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF GUIGUINTO AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Guiguinto
2 Halamanan Festival Act”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. Guiguinto Halamanan Festival.** – The Halamanan Festival of the
5 Municipality of Guiguinto, Province of Bulacan is hereby declared a major tourist
6 attraction. The Department of Tourism (DOT) shall include the Halamanan Festival in
7 its National Tourism Development Plan.

8
9 **SEC 3. Special Non-working Holiday** — The Halamanan Festival, which is
10 celebrated every January 22 of every year, is hereby declared a special non-working
11 holiday in the entire Municipality of Guiguinto, Province of Bulacan.

12
13 **SEC 4. Tourism Development and Promotion Plan** — Within six (6) months
14 from the approval of this Act, the DOT shall prepare a tourism development and
15 promotion plan for the Halamanan Festival, in coordination with the Tourism
16 Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and other concerned agencies
17 of the government. The said tourism development and promotion plan shall consist
18 of, among others, the construction, installation, and maintenance of such appropriate
19 facilities and infrastructure that shall encourage tourism in the area: *Provided*, That
20 such plan shall promote the environmental and economic underpinnings of the
21 festival.
22

1 **SEC 5. *Coordination with the DOT.*** — The DOT shall take prompt action
2 towards the implementation of the tourism development and promotion plan under
3 the preceding Section. The said plan shall form part of the DOT's overall tourism
4 development programs for the succeeding year following the effectivity of this Act.
5

6 **SEC 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** — Within sixty (60) days
7 from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DOT shall promulgate the
8 necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.
9

10 **SEC 7. *Funding.*** — The amounts necessary for the implementation of this
11 Act shall be sourced from the current appropriations of the DOT, and thereafter, it
12 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act under the projects of the
13 DOT and whenever necessary, charged against the internally generated funds of the
14 DOT.
15

16 **SEC 8. *Effectivity.*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
17 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
18

19 *Approved,*