

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

Seventeenth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 70

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

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Introduced by Representative **JOEY SARTE SALCEDA**

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AN ACT  
DECLARING APRIL 3 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY  
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBAY TO BE KNOWN AS "ALBAY DAY"

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Even prior to the coming of the Spanish colonizers in 1569, Albay, much like the rest of the archipelago, had a thriving civilization and rich culture.

As early as July 1569, Luis Enriquez de Guzman, a member of the Spanish expedition headed by Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, led the first group of Spanish explorers in the province when they sailed north from the Visayas and set foot in the southeastern side of the region, in a town called *Gibalong*, then travelling by land until they reached the town of Camalig, Albay. Since then a number of exploratory sorties were conducted by Spanish colonizers and adventurers in the Bicol Peninsula to either establish settlements or to search for gold. In 1572, the adventurer, and grandson of Legazpi, named Juan de Salcedo penetrated the Bicol Peninsula from the north and made it as far south as Libon, Albay seeking for gold. He established there the very first settlement in the region called Santiago de Libon.

On April 3, 1574, a number of villages, including one called "Baybayo" which should be taken to mean *baybayon* or "walkway in the seashore," became *encomiendas* or "entrusted villages" assigned by Spanish Governor General Guido de Lavezares to Juan Guerra. This important data is inscribed in the famed Archivo General de Indias in Seville, Spain, and provides the indisputable proof of Albay's entrance into the Spanish imperial chart.

Baybayo would later be called "Baybay" which in time evolved into "Albay." On May 14, 1834, Jose Maria Peñaranda, a military engineer, became Governor of Albay, serving the province as governor from 1834 to 1843. An outstanding leader, Peñaranda is credited as the leading developer of Albay largely because of his many contributions to the development of the province.

While beginning 2004 Albay Day was celebrated on May 14th of every year to commemorate Governor Jose Maria Peñaranda's installation as governor of Albay, the date was later moved

to April 3 by virtue of Provincial Proclamation No. 2010-01 issued by then Governor Joey Salceda when the preeminent Bikol historian, Dr. Danilo Madrid Gerona, revealed in his book titled "Albay, Winding Down the Historic Abaca Trail" that the later date, i.e. April 3, is more appropriate since it marked the day when Spanish Governor-General Guido de Lavezares assigned to Juan Guera certain villages which were eventually constituted as the first encomienda villages in Albay. In the words of Dr. Gerona, "As encomienda villages, they paved the way for the rise of municipalities which served as the structural base upon which the Spanish colonial regime in the province took root."

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



**JOEY SARTE SALCEDA**

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

SECTION 1. April 3 of every year is hereby declared to be a special nonworking public holiday in the entire Province of Albay including the cities therein in commemoration of its founding day and to be known as "Albay Day".

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,

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