

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 196

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE

RECEIVED

DATE: 0 JUN 2016

TIME: 5:30 PM

BY: [Signature]

REGISTRATION UNIT
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Introduced by **HONORABLE ROMERO "MIRO" S. QUIMBO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare July 27 of every year as a special national non-working holiday in the Philippines.

Currently, our country recognizes and celebrates eleven (11) national regular holidays¹. Among these, Christmas Day (December 25), Maundy Thursday (Thursday before Easter), Good Friday (Friday before Easter) and *Eid ul-Fitr* (end of Ramadan) were declared as such not only because of their religious significance but in recognition of the contributions of these faiths and their members to our national identity, culture, values and development.

Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church of Christ), with membership of more than five percent (5%) of the country's population, is considered to be the third largest religious order, having around 4,800 INC churches and local congregations.² Moreover, the INC has members in around 100 countries across the globe.³ Notably, despite their immeasurable contributions to the nation and the enactment of Republic Act No. 9645, July 27, the founding anniversary of the Iglesia ni Cristo remains to be recognized merely as special national working holiday. As such, the law is remiss in providing the Iglesia ni Cristo and its members the appropriate acknowledgment and recognition they deserve.


¹ Republic Act No. 9492 or "An Act Rationalizing the Celebration of National Holidays Amending for the purpose Section 26, Chapter 7, Book I of Executive Order No. 292, as amended, otherwise known as "The Administrative Code of 1987"

² "MAP: Iglesia ni Cristo in the Philippines." Rappler website, July 26, 2014
<<http://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/iq/64391-map-iglesia-ni-cristo-population-philippines>, accessed June 20, 2016>

³ Ibid

Through this bill, it is hoped that we can give full recognition to the Iglesia ni Cristo and its members for their contribution to our national identity, culture, values and development.

In view thereof, the expedient approval of this bill is strongly recommended.



ROMERO "MIRO" S. QUIMBO
Representative
Second District, Marikina City

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HOUSE BILL NO. 196

Introduced by **HONORABLE ROMERO "MIRO" S. QUIMBO**

1 **AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9645, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE**
2 **"COMMEMORATION OF THE FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF IGLESIA NI**
3 **CRISTO ACT", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**
4

5 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
6 *Congress assembled:*
7

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 3 of Republic Act No. 9645, otherwise known as the
9 "Commemoration of the Founding Anniversary of the Iglesia ni Cristo Act" is hereby
10 amended to read as follows:
11

12 "SEC 3. *National Holiday.* - July 27 of every year is hereby declared as
13 a special national (~~working~~) **NON-WORKING** holiday in commemoration of
14 the founding anniversary of the Iglesia ni Cristo in the Philippines."
15

16 **SECTION 2. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, orders, rules, regulations,
17 ordinances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby
18 repealed or modified accordingly.
19

20 **SECTION 3. Effectivity Clause.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon its
21 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
22
23

24 Approved,