



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 213



Introduced by:
REP. FRANCISCO JOSE F. MATUGAS II
1ST District, Surigao del Norte (*Siargao Island*)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Surigao was first established as a province in Mindanao and was named Surigao Province on 15 May 1901 by virtue of Act 127 entitled "An Act Extending the Provisions of the Provincial Government Act to the Province of Surigao". Section 5 of the said Act explicitly states that x x x "the Capital of the Province shall be at the town of Surigao" x x x which refers to the present City of Surigao, the capital of the present Province of Surigao del Norte.

On 19 June 1960, Surigao Province was divided into the two provinces of Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur by virtue of Republic Act 2786. On 22 May 1992, Republic Act No. 7553 was approved declaring June 19 of every year as a special non-working holiday in the Province of Surigao Del Norte to be known as "Adlaw Nan Surigao del Norte".

While Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur were created only in 1960, it is worth noting and remembering that there was already a Province of Surigao before said date whose capital was situated in the Province of Surigao del Norte. Therefore, in celebrating the birth of the Province of Surigao, it is not historically accurate to begin counting on the day the Province was divided into the two provinces of Surigao del Norte and Sur. The Surigaonons should have a sense of heritage and culture in knowing that there has been a Province of Surigao 112 years ago and that they are a people with a proud history and glorious past. Thus, the need to repeal RA 7553.

The Chairperson of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), Maria Serena I. Diokno, when asked for comment regarding the proposal to repeal RA 7553, said:

In 1860, the present Surigao del Norte was part of the East district, one politico-military districts in Mindanao, which around 1870 became known as the District of Surigao. The district was converted into the Province of Surigao through Act 127 in 1901. The provinces of Surigao del Norte and Sur were created out of the old Surigao Province by virtue of R.A. 2786 dated June 19, 1960.

Celebrating 19 June 1960 as the foundation day of Surigao del Norte simply refers to its formal establishment as a province, and not to its existence for hundreds of years.¹

The current version of this bill was already approved on third reading during the 16th Congress. The Senate Committee on Local Government had reported it back to the Senate with the recommendation that it be approved without amendments. Unfortunately, it was not taken up by the Senate due to lack of material time.

In order to preserve, value and celebrate the historical milestone of 15 May 1901, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


FRANCISCO JOSE F. MATUGAS II



Republic of the Philippines

House of Representatives

Quezon City, Metro Manila

Seventeenth Congress First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 213

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE FRANCISCO JOSE F. MATUGAS II

AN ACT DECLARING MAY 15 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE TO BE KNOWN AS "ADLAW NAN PROBINSYA NAN SURIGAO" AND REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7553, ENTITLED "AN ACT DECLARING JUNE NINETEEN OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE, TO BE KNOWN AS 'ADLAW NAN SURIGAO DEL NORTE'"

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

1 SECTION 1. May Fifteen (15) of every year is hereby declared as a special
2 non-working holiday in the entire Province of Surigao del Norte to be known
3 as "Adlaw Nan Probinsya Nan Surigao".
4

5 SECTION 2. Republic Act No. 7553, entitled "An Act Declaring June
6 Nineteen of Every Year as a Special Nonworking Holiday in the Province of
7 Surigao del Norte, to be Known as "Adlaw Nan Surigao del Norte" is hereby
8 repealed.
9

10 SECTION 3. All laws, executive orders, decrees, rules and regulations
11 and other issuances inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby
12 deemed amended and modified accordingly.
13

14 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication
15 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.
16

17 Approved,