

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 369



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure proposes that July 27 of every year be declared as a special national non-working holiday in the Philippines.

Our country recognizes and celebrates eleven (11) national regular holidays, among which are religious in nature and significance like Christmas Day (December 25), Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Eid al Fitr (end of Ramadan). The country recognizes and celebrate these holidays not only for their religious meaning but also in recognition of the contributions of these religions and their faithful to our national identity, culture, values, norms and mores; and socio-cultural development.

On the other hand, Iglesia Ni Cristo (INC), with a membership of more than five percent (5%) of the country's population, is considered to be the third largest religious organization, having around 4,800 local congregations and has members in around 100 countries.

Despite the immeasurable contributions and participation in the socio-historical development of the country and nation, the enactment of Republic Act No. 9645, the founding anniversary of the INC on July 27 remains to be a special national working holiday. As such the law is remiss in providing the INC and its members the appropriate recognition and acknowledgement they

deserve and providing them a better chance to meaningfully celebrate their founding anniversary.

This measure intends to grant the Iglesia Ni Cristo that recognition they deserve and provide a better opportunity for their church and members to celebrate their founding anniversary. It is hoped that the approval of this measure be expedited since this has been deliberated and approved on 3rd Reading by the House of Representatives and was transmitted to the Senate.



ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

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Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

AN ACT
DECLARING JULY 27 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NATIONAL
NONWORKING HOLIDAY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9645, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“COMMEMORATION OF THE FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF
IGLESIA NI CRISTO”

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic No. 9645 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 3. National Holiday, - July 27 of every year is hereby declared (as) a special national (working) **NONWORKING** holiday in commemoration of the founding anniversary of the Iglesia ni Cristo in the Philippines”

SECTION 2. *Effectivity.*— This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.