

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4215



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Introduced by REP. CESAR V. SARMIENTO

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Catanduanes, an island province, lies on the Maqueda Channel and the Lagonoy Gulf off the coast of Southern Luzon. Other than the main island, there are smaller islands which comprise the province. Formerly known as Catanduan or Catandungan, Catanduanes derived its name from the tando trees which abound in the island.

The whole province has a land area of 1,511.5 square kilometers and a population of 232,357 in 2007. It is composed of 11 towns, with Virac as the capital.

Catanduanes was explored by Juan de Salcedo in 1573. Later, on January 6, 1576, Fr. Diego de Herrera with nine Augustinians sailed from Acapulco to the Philippines aboard the galleon Espiritu Santo and landed on the shores of Bato, Catanduanes. A certain Fr. Francisco Colin described the inhabitants as noted shipbuilders who can build ships even without using nails or futtock timbers. In 1755, the Muslims overran the island, defeated the then alcalde mayor, then pillaged and burned the towns including important ecclesiastical and municipal records. The Spaniards left Catanduanes on September 18, 1898. When the Philippine-American war broke out, Brigadier General William A. Kobbe occupied Virac on January 24, 1900. In 1941, the island was governed by Japanese Imperial Forces. After the liberation of Bicol region from Japanese forces in 1945, the United States Armed Forces maintained a military base in Panay island in the northern part of the province.

On October 26, 1945, Catanduanes became an independent province from Albay through the passage of House Bill No. 301 authored by then Representative Francisco Perfecto. This bill became the Commonwealth Act No. 687. Remigio Socito, the last Lieutenant Governor of Catanduanes was appointed as the first Provincial Governor. When an election was held in 1947, Alfonso V. Usero became the first elected Governor.

In order to give the people of Catanduanes the opportunity to celebrate the historic occasion of its independence as a province, it is but proper to declare October 26 of every year as a special non-working holiday. Hence, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
CESAR V. SARMIENTO

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**AN ACT DECLARING OCTOBER 26 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-  
WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF CATANDUANES TO BE KNOWN AS  
THE FOUNDATION DAY OF CATANDUANES**

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the Catanduanes Foundation Day Act.

SECTION 2. October 26 of every year is hereby declared as a special non-  
working holiday in the Province of Catanduanes to be known as the Foundation Day of  
Catanduanes.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a  
newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,