

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH (18th) CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3416



Introduced by **Hon. WILTER "SHARKY" WEE PALMA II**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare February 24 of every year as a special non-working holiday to be hailed as the "*Araw ng Sibugay*" to be held within the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay.

The Province of Zamboanga Sibugay was created by virtue of Republic Act No. 8973 which was enacted into law by President Joseph Estrada on November 7, 2000. On February 24, 2001, a plebiscite was conducted within the 44 municipalities of Zamboanga del Sur as well as Pagadian City aiming to further ratify RA 8973.

As such, the abovementioned events have then paved its way towards the establishment of Zamboanga Sibugay as the 79th Province of the Philippines. As it stands, the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay is comprised of sixteen (16) municipalities and 389 barangays which serves as home to approximately 633,129 inhabitants (Census, 2018) all belonging to varying walks of life, ethnicity, creed and beliefs. At its very core, the province of Zamboanga Sibugay serves as the central entity which promotes progress, inclusivity, social justice and service for the Sibugaynons.

With the declaration of February 24 of every year as a special non-working holiday to be hailed as the "*Araw ng Sibugay*", it would then lead towards empowering its citizens to celebrate and honor the humble roots and rich history of the province. Moreover, the celebration of the "*Araw ng Sibugay*" would then enable its citizens to be part of celebrations honoring the province's mandate

towards progress, sustainable development and inclusivity for the people. In light of this, the festivities would serve as a stepping stone towards attaining progress and unity not just for the province but also for its citizens.

As it stands, this bill was approved by the House during its third reading on November 11, 2017 and was passed with amendments by the senate during its third and final reading on June 3, 2019. However, due to lack of material time, the bill was not enacted into law. Thus, the refiling of this bill and its immediate reapproval is earnestly sought.



ATTY. WILTER "SHARKY" WEE PALMA II
1st District, Zamboanga Sibugay

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EIGHTEENTH (18th) CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 3416

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AN ACT

**DECLARING FEBRUARY 24 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING
HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY IN COMMEMORATION
OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS “ARAW NG SIBUGAY”**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** February 24 of every year is hereby declared a special working
2 holiday in the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay in commemoration of its founding
3 anniversary, to be known as “Araw ng Sibugay”. Upon proclamation of the
4 President, February 24 of every year shall be a special nonworking holiday in the
5 Province of Zamboanga Sibugay.

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

8 Approved,