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

18th Congress First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5711



Introduced by HON. RODRIGO A. ABELLANOSA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Sergio Veloso Osmena, Jr., fondly known to Cebuanos as Serging, was the son of former President Sergio Osmena, Sr. and served as a Philippine senator, the governor of the Province of Cebu, and the mayor of the City of Cebu.

During the Japanese occupation, he served as an intelligence agent for the Filipino resistance. In his term as governor of the province, he purged the provincial and municipal governments of civil service violators. He initiated Cebu's infrastructural revolution and introduced the first significant Public-Private Partnership with the Cebu City North Reclamation Project. He was also the first to propose the bridge connecting Mactan and Cebu and broach the idea of closing the substandard and dangerous Lahug Airport and opening one in Mactan. The previous is now known as the Sergio Osmena Bridge and the latter, having come into fruition through his personal initiative with the United States Government, is now known as the Mactan Cebu International Airport.

He was critically wounded during a bombing while actively participating in an opposition rally in Manila in August 1971 along with 83 others, 10 of whom died from the injuries they sustained.

He died of respiratory failure in 1984 while in exile in the United States as he continued to stand by the principles of democracy.

This bill seeks to officially honor Gov. Serging Osmena, a visionary Cebuano who rightfully deserves to be recognized for his contributions to the modernization of Cebu City and the Province of Cebu. He has definitely been instrumental in leading our fellowmen towards the economic success and continued growth that we are enjoying now.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

RODRIGO A. ABELLANOSA

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AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER FOUR OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF CEBU AND THE PROVINCE OF CEBU WITH ITS COMPONENT CITIES AND A SPECIAL WORKING PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY, IN HONOR OF THE LATE SENATOR SERGIO V. OSMEÑA, JR.

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

Section 1. December 4 of every year is hereby declared a special non-working public holiday in the City of Cebu and the Province of Cebu with its component cities and a special working public holiday in the rest of the country, in honor of the late Senator Sergio V. Osmeña, Jr.

Section 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,