

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



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2678

Introduced by Rep. Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to declare November 4 of every year as a special non-working holiday in the Province of Quezon, to commemorate the death anniversary, heroism and patriotism of Apolinario Dela Cruz, popularly known as "Hermano Puli".

Freedom of religion or belief is one of the liberties that the Filipino people fought and died for throughout the Spanish era in the country. One of the immortals in this religious struggle is Apolinario de la Cruz. His Confradia De Jesus paved the way for Father Jose Burgos' struggle to secularize Philippine parishes and Father Gregorio Aglipay's efforts to establish the Iglesia Filipina Independiente.

Hermano Pule rendered invaluable service in our country by founding the brotherhood popularly known as Confradia De Jesus. The brotherhood or religious organization that Hermano Pule founded spread like wildfire in the Province of Tayabas (now Quezon, Laguna and some towns in Batangas) which historical research has proved as one way of showing nationalism during that time.

Hermano Pule stands out among the heroes of the Filipino people. He saw the power of religion on the life of his countrymen. He knew that colonial rule could not be overthrown by force or use of arms. His studies in the library of the Hospital de San Juan de Dios convinced him that religion was a powerful means to awaken his people and liberate them from the abusive colonial government.

Thus, it is but fitting and proper to honor and emulate the heroism and patriotism of Apolinario (Hermano Pule) de la Cruz and give the people of Quezon Province full opportunity to commemorate the vent with appropriate ceremonies.

In light of the foregoing, passage of this bill is urgently sought.



WILFRIDO MARK M. ENVERGA

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**AN ACT DECLARING EVERY FOURTH DAY OF NOVEMBER AS A SPECIAL
NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEZON**

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

SECTION. 1. November 4 of every year is hereby declared as a special non-working holiday in the Province of Quezon, to commemorate the death anniversary, heroism and patriotism of Apolinario Dela Cruz, popularly known as "Hermano Puli".

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED,

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our Constitution provides that the State shall promote industrialization and full employment based on sound agricultural development and agrarian reform, through industries that make full and efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are competitive in both domestic and foreign markets. In the pursuit of these goals, all sectors of the economy and all regions of the country shall be given optimum opportunity to develop. Private enterprises, including corporations, cooperatives, and similar collective organizations, shall be encouraged to broaden the base of their ownership.

This bill provides for the creation of Northern Quezon Development Authority (NQDA) which will pave the way for the gradual development of the long neglected eastern coastal towns of the first congressional district of Quezon. The bill likewise intends to create an institutional machinery to ensure an effective ecologic and economic management of the northern part of the Province of Quezon specifically the municipalities surrounding the upper portion (northern) of Lamon Bay areas.

Northern Lamon Bay is a vast body of water consisting Lamon Bay and part of the Pacific Ocean encompassing the five (5) island-municipalities in the first district of Quezon (northern Quezon), it is a rich fishing ground that supply substantially marine and fish requirements of Southern Tagalog Region and Metro Manila. Apart from having a rich marine life and other aquatic resources, four coastal towns of General Nakar, Infanta, Real and Mauban, Quezon, cover large area of forest lands rich in wild flora and fauna, animals, forest and fruit trees and a watershed area supply supporting existing and proposed hydroelectric power plants, domestic water supply and irrigation works.

The Northern Quezon is also in a strategic location ideal for harbor and port development in the pacific side of the country. This key geographic location underscores its potential to be a major transshipment point and center of trade in the northern Pacific Rim. Furthermore, thru Infanta-Marikina Road, imported and local products can easily reach Metro Manila hence it will play a significant role in trade and economic activities of the country.

Yet despite its strategic location to facilitate economic development, its potential is however, not actualized. There is a lack of industrial progress in the aforementioned coastal towns and island-municipalities. There is no known development plan for the whole of the northern part of Quezon. Development Plans are still in the municipal level. Integrated and sustainable plan needs to be drawn and implemented in the area if real development is to be achieved.

The Northern Quezon Development Authority (NQDA) will promote the socio-economic development of Quezon first district through a holistic and integrative coordination of all active sectors in the area. This agency will oversee the general development of the area and will create a framework that will facilitate economic progress and ecological preservation.

To bring forth serious and comprehensive long-term program for socio- economic development, commensurate to the demands of time, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



WILFRIDO MARK M. ENVERGA