



'22 DEC 14 P2 :20

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )

RECEIVED BY: 

**SENATE**  
**S. B. No. 1616**

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Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

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**AN ACT**  
**DECLARING THE SEVENTH DAY OF NOVEMBER OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NATIONAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN COMMEMORATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST PHILIPPINE MOSQUE AND THE INTRODUCTION OF ISLAM IN THE PHILIPPINES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The presence of Islamic faith in the Philippines has immensely contributed to the enrichment, vibrance and diversity of the unique culture and civilization of our great Filipino Nation. Central and significant contributions of our Muslim forebearers cannot be discounted from the deep collective history of our people. As such, it is essential that due recognition be given to our brothers and sisters in the Muslim faith and be one with them in celebrating the commemoration of the introduction and proliferation of Islam in the Philippines.

On every 7<sup>th</sup> of November, our Muslim brothers and sisters celebrate the anniversary of the coming of Arab missionary Shariff Karim'ul Makhdum and the building of the first Muslim prayer hall (langgal) in Bohe Indangan, Simunul island, Tawi-tawi. It was in this mosque where Islam was said to be first preached in Sulu in 1380, as propounded in the book of Dr. Cesar Adib Majul (1977, 1999) based on his and Dr. Najeeb Saleeby's (1905, 1908) readings of Sulu genealogical accounts (sarsila). It has been widely and uncritically accepted that the coming of the Makhdumin facilitated the systematization and formalization of most of the social infrastructures for the Islamic practice and propagation in the Philippines.

Some recognition towards this cause has already been made in the past, specifically during the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress wherein this representation filed House Bill No. 409 which, under the legislative process, was thereafter ratified as Republic Act 10573, or "An Act Declaring the Sheikh Karimul Makhdum Mosque, Considered as

the Site of One of the Oldest Existing Muslim Houses of Prayer or Mosques in the Philippines, at Tubig Indangan, Simunul, Province of Tawi-Tawi, as a National Historical Landmark and for Other Purposes". The said bill bears personal significance since its Senate counterpart was filed and authored by this representation's father, the late former Senator Edgardo J. Angara.

In the past, a regional law declaring the Sheikh Makhdum centennial celebration as one of the Islamic events entitled to a special non-working holiday was put into effect when, the now defunct Regional Government of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), through its Legislative Assembly, passed the Muslim Mindanao Autonomy Act (MMA) No. 17.

With the approval of this bill seeking to declare the Sheikh Karimul Makhdum Day as a special national working holiday, long overdue recognition to the contribution of Islam in the development of culture and civilization in our country will be staunchly expressed – signifying to our brothers and sisters in the Muslim faith that they are being accorded due and equal recognition by the national government.

For the above-mentioned reasons, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



**SONNY ANGARA**

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

1           Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Sheikh Karim’ul  
2 Makhдум Day.”

3           Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to instill inclusivity  
4 to all regardless of religious beliefs, in line with the constitutional right to freely  
5 exercise and enjoy their religion. Moreover, it is the State's policy to provide due  
6 recognition to the indispensable contributions of Muslim Filipinos in the development  
7 of Philippine culture and civilization.

8           Sec. 3. *National Holiday* – Every seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) day of November hereinafter is  
9 hereby declared as “Sheikh Karim’ul Makhдум Day”, a special national working  
10 holiday in commemoration of the establishment of the first Philippine Mosque, and  
11 the introduction of Islam in the Philippines.

12           Sec. 4. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
13 publication in the *Official Gazette* or at least two (2) newspapers of general  
14 circulation.

*Approved,*