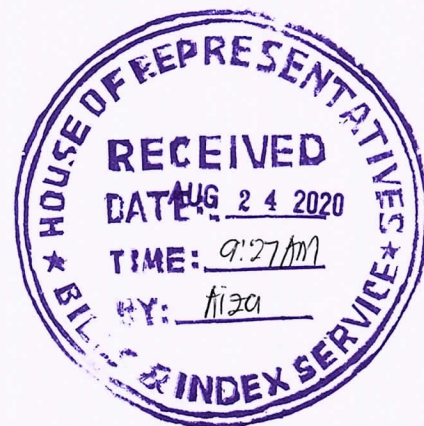


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**18<sup>th</sup> Congress**  
**Second Regular Session**

House Bill No. 7458



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Introduced by **HON. RODRIGO A. ABELLANOSA**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

**March 16, 1521 marked a remarkable day not only for Cebu, but for the entire nation. On this day, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, leading the Spanish expedition on a search for a westward route to the Maluku Islands, landed on Homonhon Island. His arrival, and the subsequent completion of the team's expedition, resulted in the 'discovery' of the Philippines by other civilizations.**

**The same expedition has also resulted in the first Filipinos being baptized into Christianity.**

**Today, our culture and religion are a testament to the huge impact of that fortuitous day. This bill seeks to declare March 16, 2021 a special non-working holiday for the country in order to celebrate its 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary, something that happens, well, just once.**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodrigo A. Abellanos".

**RODRIGO A. ABELLANOSA**

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

**18<sup>th</sup> Congress**  
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House Bill No. 7458

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Introduced by **HON. RODRIGO A. ABELLANOSA**

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**AN ACT DECLARING MARCH 16, 2021,  
A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY  
IN COMMEMORATION OF THE QUINCENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF  
FERDINAND MAGELLAN'S FORAY ON PHILIPPINE SOIL  
AND THE FOUNDING OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE COUNTRY**

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

Section 1. March 16, 2021 is hereby declared a special non-working holiday in the entire country to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Philippines' victory against Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan's conquest and the introduction of Christianity as a religion to the country.

Sec. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,