



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*Second Regular Session*

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SENATE

S.B. No. 1811

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Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

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AN ACT  
DECLARING FEBRUARY 21 OF EVERY YEAR AS 'ARAW NG  
MARINDUQUE,' A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY  
IN THE PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Known to be the "Heart of the Philippines" and the home of the Moriones festival, the Province of Marinduque has a well-recorded history about its foundation day.

Marinduque, along with Mindoro, was made a part of Batangas when the latter was founded in 1581 by Spaniards.

Early in the 17th century, the island of Marinduque was separated from Batangas and became a part of Mindoro as a corregimiento. In 1671, Marinduque functioned as a province but was later reduced as a Mindoro sub-province. This period in Marinduque's colorful history continue to show the flip-flopping status of its independence as a province.

On the 28th of April 1898, with the overthrow of the last Spanish casadores (Tagalog soldiers) after armed conflict and hostilities with the revolutionists during the Philippine-Spanish War, Marinduque declared its separation from Mindoro and from Spanish rule. This declaration was ratified by the ruling class from different towns of the island province. Martin Lardizabal, the military governor of Marinduque's first revolutionary provincial government, led the local struggle.

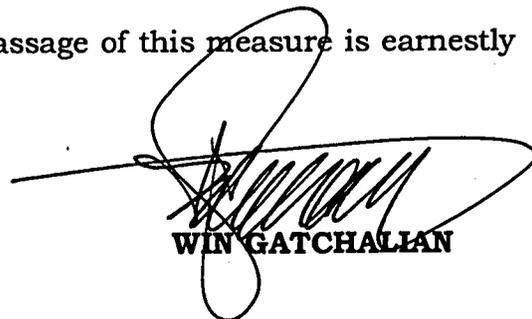
Then, on 01 May 1901, Marinduque was finally converted into a new province by virtue of Philippine Commission Act No. 125. However, the celebration would be short-lived. On 10 November 1902, by virtue of Act No. 499, Marinduque was annexed to the Province of Tayabas (now Quezon). Furthermore, on 17 May 1907, it was declared a sub-province of Tayabas under Act No. 1649 with Juan Nieva as Lieutenant Governor.

Finally, on 21 February 1920, Act No. 2880 re-established the Province of Marinduque as a separate and independent province from Tayabas.

This measure seeks to accord the Province of Marinduque the recognition it truly deserves by declaring the 21<sup>st</sup> day of February every year as the "Araw ng Marinduque."

A province's founding anniversary is a reminder to the local community about the long-standing culture and traditions of the province. It also boosts the morale of everyone in the community since the annual festivities that often accompany this type of holiday build stronger bonds among the local population. Without a doubt, the celebrations and festivities during municipal, city and provincial foundation days form part and parcel of the Filipino culture.

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



WIN GATCHALIAN



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**AN ACT  
DECLARING FEBRUARY 21 OF EVERY YEAR AS 'ARAW NG  
MARINDUQUE,' A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY  
IN THE PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE**

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

1 SECTION 1. February 21 of every year is hereby declared a special  
2 nonworking holiday in the Province of Marinduque, to be known as "Araw  
3 ng Marinduque," in commemoration of its founding anniversary.

4

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

8

9 Approved,