

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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **960**

Introduced by CONG. LORNA C. SILVERIO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create the *Biak-na-Bato* Historical Commission to oversee and manage the plans and projects for the historical place.

Biak-na-Bato in San Miguel, Bulacan has been enshrined in our history. It is the place where a pact to fight for our freedom was instituted, which is one of the historical events that led to our independence. The significance of such event cannot be over-emphasized, proper recognition is more than justified. A body that will oversee the preservation and maintenance of its historical value is imperative. The Filipino people must be fully enlightened on the significance of such historic event. With this bill, it is hoped that patriotism and nationalism will be inculcated in the minds of Filipinos.

The Commission proposed to be created under this bill will be tasked to prepare plans and programs solely for the *Biak-na-Bato*. All the materials, documents and data relative to *Biak-na-Bato* shall be gathered, collected and compiled to be placed in the Commission whereby a researcher on this important event will have only one place to go.

This bill likewise provides that the Commission may accept donations and gifts for the development of *Biak-na-Bato*. Such donations shall be an allowable deduction from gross income for tax purposes.

Hence, to enhance the significance of the Pact of *Biak-na-Bato* to the democracy we are now enjoying, approval of the bill is strongly urged.


LORNA C. SILVERIO

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HOUSE BILL NO. 961

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AN ACT
CREATING THE *BIAK-NA-BATO* HISTORICAL COMMISSION,
DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. Title - This Act shall be known as the “Biak-na-Bato Historical Commission.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to foster and promote the development and to maintain the historical value of places enshrined in our history, and in the spirit of meaningful local autonomy, to generate funds that will help maximize opportunities for the development of such places. Towards this end, a body that will directly coordinate, plan and manage an overall program to maximize the development of *Biak-na-Bato* in San Miguel, Bulacan shall be created.

SECTION 3. Creation of Biak-na-Bato Historical Commission – To carry out the objective of this Act, the *Biak-na-Bato* Historical Commission is hereby created, hereinafter referred to as the Commission which shall be attached to the National Historical Institute.

SECTION 4. Composition – The Commission shall be composed of the Head of the National Historical Institute as the Chairman and the following as members:

- a) Representative from the Department of Education;
- b) Governor of the Province of Bulacan;
- c) Mayor of the Municipality of San Miguel, Bulacan;
- d) One representative from the private sector in the community, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines for a period of three years, upon recommendation of the Commission.

SECTION 5. **Powers and Functions** – The Commission shall have the following powers and functions:

- a) Prepare the general program for the *Biak-na-Bato*. Such program shall be on a continuing basis and that such program shall be geared to upkeep and maintaining the development of *Biak-na-Bato*;
- b) Compile from various sources data on *Biak-na-Bato*;
- c) Gather and publish source books, reports, records and other valuable information relation to *Biak-na-Bato*;
- d) Take charge of all historical activities or projects in the area;
- e) Assist LGUs in the *Biak-na-Bato* area in adjusting and undertaking their local development planning and implementation activities to conform with the Commission's plans and programs;
- f) Coordinate with, and cause the alignment of National Government agencies' plans, programs, projects and priorities to make them more responsive and attuned to tax policies, programs, projects and concerns of LGUs in the area;
- g) Exercise such powers and perform such functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SECTION 6. **Compensation of Chairman and Members of the Commission** – The Chairman and Members of the Commission shall

receive no compensation, but shall be entitled to per diems for meetings actually attended in accordance with the rules and regulations that may be adopted by the Commission, but which in no case shall exceed the amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) per meeting nor shall it exceed Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) per month.

SECTION 7. **Principal Office** – The Commission shall establish the principal office at San Miguel, Bulacan.

SECTION 8. **Support Staff** - The Commission shall be assisted by support staff to be headed by an Executive Director to be appointed by the Chairman.

The Commission, upon recommendation of the Executive Director, shall appoint such personnel as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Commission.

SECTION 9. **Transfer of Documents** – All materials and documents relative to *Biak-na-Bato* shall be turned over to the Commission by the National Historical Institute or any other agency with such materials or documents.

SECTION 10. **Donations and Gifts** – The Commission shall have the right to receive donations or bequests which shall be utilized only for the implementation of the programs and projects for *Biak-na-Bato*. Such donations or bequests shall be deductible from the gross income of the donor for the year during which the same is made.

SECTION 11. **Appropriations** – The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the National Historical Institute under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continuous operation of the Commission shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 12. **Separability Clause** – Should any provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional, the other provisions not effected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 13. **Repealing Clause** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified, accordingly.

SECTION 14 **Effectivity** – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,