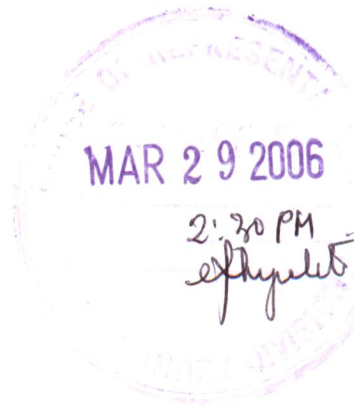


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Thirteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 5406



Introduced by Honorable JOSE CARLOS V. LACSON

EXPLANATORY NOTE

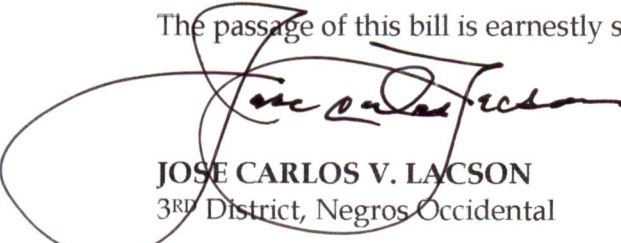
Every May 28 the nation observes National Flag Day. On this day in 1898 the Philippine flag was unfurled for the first time at Cavite Nuevo, now Cavite City to celebrate the victory of Filipino forces in the Battle of Alapan in Imus, Cavite. General Emilio Aguinaldo who had arrived from exile in Hong Kong, was gladdened by the sight of Spanish prisoners being marched from Alapan that he brought out the flag which was made during his exile in the British colony by women which included Marcela Agoncillo, wife of Filipino diplomat Felipe Agoncillo, her daughter Lorenza, who was then seven years old and Delfina Herbosa Natividad, who was the niece of Filipino hero and martyr Dr. Jose Rizal. According to Aguinaldo there was great rejoicing among the Filipinos and the American marines camped nearby also joined in the rejoicing.

Fifteen days later, on June 12, Filipino patriots gathered at Aguinaldo's house in Kawit, Cavite and in the late afternoon, Ambrosio Rianzares Bautista read the Proclamation of Philippine Independence which was followed by the unfurling of the Philippine flag. For the first time the Marcha Nacional which would later become part of the National Anthem would be played.

Both National Flag Day and Independence Day are important moments in our country's history. They are the culminating events in the long struggle for freedom. Sadly, the government does not provide definite and adequate funding for the commemoration of these events. Often the agencies charged with their commemoration depend on a presidential proclamation, which formally creates a national organizing committee for that year. The same proclamation also allows the release of a certain amount of funds. The release is often done within a week of Independence Day which cause haphazard preparations. It is also quite a pity since the government provides funding to the amount of fifteen million pesos (P15,000,000.00) to commemorate the friendship with Spain, its former colonizer, through Republic Act 9167 but does not provide a single centavo for its own Independence Day.

This bill aims to create a definite national organizing committee tasked to plan programs and implement the commemoration of National Flag Day and Independence Day. The bill will also provide adequate funding for these important events to ensure effective commemoration that will make every Filipino proud of his country's history and its heroes.

The passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



JOSE CARLOS V. LACSON
3RD District, Negros Occidental

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

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Introduced by Honorable JOSE CARLOS V. LACSON

**AN ACT CREATING A NATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR THE
COMMEMORATION OF NATIONAL FLAG DAY AND PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE
DAY AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Permanent National Organizing Committee, establishment; composition.* – There is hereby established a permanent National Organizing Committee that shall be tasked to plan and implement activities and programs related to the country's annual commemoration of the National Flag Day on May 28 and the Philippine Independence Day on June 12. Pursuant to this, the head of the National Historical Institute (NHI) is hereby designated to take the lead in said National Organizing Committee along with duly designated representatives from the Department of Tourism (DoT), Department of Education (DepEd) Office of the President (OP), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of the Interior and Local Governments (DILG), Commission on Higher Education (CheD), National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) as members: *Provided,* That the participation of other government agencies, instrumentalities and other financial institutions as well as the private sectors in the aforesaid annual commemorations shall be further enhanced and encouraged.

SEC. 2. *Additional memberships.* – Consistent with the provision of section 1 hereof, the Committee may increase its membership to ensure the maximum participation and involvement of the broad masses of people in aforesaid commemorations.

SEC. 3. *Secretariat.* – For smooth and effective implementation of plans, programs and activities related to the twin commemorations, the NHI is hereby designated to act as the Secretariat of the Committee in addition to its current responsibilities and mandate.

SEC. 4. *Appropriations.* – There shall be released an amount of Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00) to the National Historical Institute to be expended by the Committee for the National Flag Day commemorative activities. An additional amount of Fifteen Million Pesos

(P15,000,000.00) shall also be appropriated and released to the National Historical Institute for the use of the Committee for Independence Day commemorative activities.

SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, decrees, proclamations, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof deemed inconsistent or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder or part thereof shall remain valid.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,