

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2236 08 AUG 2012

Submitted by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture on _____
Re : House Bill No. 3459
Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2344,
Sponsors : Representatives Salvador H. Escudero III and Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Basic Education and Culture to which was referred House Bill No. 2344 introduced by Rep. Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona, entitled:

**"AN ACT
CONVERTING THE ESTEBAN MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL
BINONGAAN EXTENSION IN BARANGAY BINONGAAN,
MUNICIPALITY OF SAN AGUSTIN, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON AS
AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL KNOWN AS
BINONGAAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR"**

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. 3459
entitled:

**"AN ACT
SEPARATING THE ESTEBAN MADRONA MEMORIAL HIGH
SCHOOL - BINONGAAN ANNEX IN BARANGAY BINONGAAN,
MUNICIPALITY OF SAN AGUSTIN, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON
FROM THE ESTEBAN MADRONA MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL,
CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BINONGAAN NATIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"**

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 2344 with Representatives Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona and Salvador H. Escudero III as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,


SALVADOR H. ESCUDERO III

Chairperson
Committee on Basic Education and Culture

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3450
(In substitution of House Bill No. 2344)

Introduced by Representatives Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona and Salvador H. Escudero III

AN ACT

SEPARATING THE ESTEBAN MADRONA MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL – BINONGAAN ANNEX IN BARANGAY BINONGAAN, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN AGUSTIN, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON FROM THE ESTEBAN MADRONA MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BINONGAAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. *Separation and Conversion into a National High School.* The Esteban
2 Madrona Memorial High School – Binongaan Annex in Barangay Binongaan, Municipality
3 of San Agustin, Province of Romblon is hereby separated from the Esteban Madrona
4 Memorial High School and converted into an independent national high school to be known
5 as Binongaan National High School.

6
7 SEC. 2. *Transfer of Assets and Liabilities.* All personnel, assets, liabilities and
8 records of the Esteban Madrona Memorial High School – Binongaan Annex are hereby
9 transferred to and absorbed by the Binongaan National High School.

10
11 SEC. 3. *Appropriations.* The Secretary of Education shall immediately include in
12 the Department's program the operationalization of the Binongaan National High School, the
13 initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the
14 Esteban Madrona Memorial High School – Binongaan Annex. Thereafter, the amount
15 necessary for the continued operation of the school shall be included in the annual General
16 Appropriations Act.

17
18 SEC. 4. *Implementation.* The Secretary of Education shall issue such rules and
19 regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

20
21 SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
22 the Official Gazette.

23
24 *Approved,*



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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. **2344**

Introduced by Honorable Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona

This Bill seeks to convert the Esteban Madrona Memorial High School Binongaan Extension as an independent national high school located at Barangay Binongaan, Municipality of San Agustin, Province of Romblon to be known as Binongaan National High School.

The Esteban Madrona Memorial High School Binongaan Extension derives its funding for operations from its mother school, the Esteban Madrona Memorial High School. The teaching and non-teaching items are borrowed items from the main campus. Further, the number of teachers are not sufficient to respond to the number of students for an ideal student-teacher ratio due to the increasing number of enrollees every school year. Thus, it cannot function effectively and efficiently given the limited resources

In consonance with the State's policy of providing quality education to everyone, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2344**

Introduced by Honorable Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona

AN ACT CONVERTING THE ESTEBAN MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL BINONGAAN
EXTENSION IN BARANGAY BINONGAAN, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN AGUSTIN,
PROVINCE OF ROMBLON AS AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE
KNOWN AS BINONGAAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The Esteban Madrona Memorial High School Binongaan Extension in Barangay Binongaan, Municipality of San Agustin, Province of Romblon is hereby converted into a separate, independent and distinct national high school to be known as Binongaan National High School.

SECTION 2. All personnel, assets, liabilities and records of the Esteban Madrona Memorial High School Binongaan Extension are hereby transferred to the Binongaan National High School.

SECTION 3. The Department of Education shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the Department of Education. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the operation and maintenance of the school shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

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

Approved,

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

26 March 2012

HON. JOSEPH EMILIO A. ABAYA
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on Appropriations

RECEIVED
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Dear Chairperson Abaya:

By: *[Signature]* Control No. _____

The Committee on Basic Education and Culture approved on 4 February 2011 the attached House Bill No. 3451, entitled:

AN ACT
SEPARATING THE ESTEBAN MADRONA MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL –
BINONGAAN ANNEX IN BARANGAY BINONGAAN, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN
AGUSTIN, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON FROM THE ESTEBAN MADRONA
MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BINONGAAN NATIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

in substitution of House Bill No. 2344 with Representatives Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona and Salvador H. Escudero III as authors thereof.

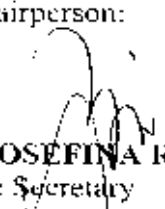
Considering that a proposed funding is provided for in Section 3 of the aforesaid bill, the Committee deemed it appropriate to refer the same to the Committee on Appropriations for comment and approval.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

SALVADOR H. ESCUDERO III
Chairperson

For the Chairperson:


MARIA JOSEFINA R. RICAFORT
Committee Secretary



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



HON. JOSEPH EMILIO A. ABAYA

*Congressman, 1st District, Cavite
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations*

July 23, 2012

HON. SALVADOR H. ESCUDERO III

*Chairperson
Committee on Basic Education & Culture*

Dear Chairperson Escudero:

This refers to the following house bills/substitute bills on the separation of national high schools which were referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

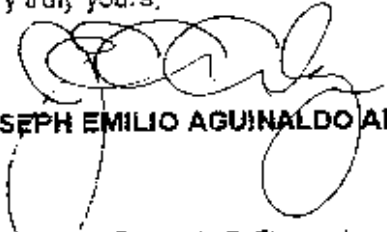
1. **Substitute Bill to House Bill No. 2006 - AN ACT SEPARATING THE CALAPE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - LOGON ANNEX IN BARANGAY LOGON, MUNICIPALITY OF DAANBANTAYAN, PROVINCE OF CEBU FROM THE CALAPE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS LOGON NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;**
2. **Substitute Bill to House Bill No. 2008 - AN ACT SEPARATING THE CALAPE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - PAYPAY ANNEX IN BARANGAY PAYPAY, MUNICIPALITY OF DAANBANTAYAN, PROVINCE OF CEBU FROM THE CALAPE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS PAYPAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;**
3. **Substitute Bill to House Bill No. 2344 - AN ACT SEPARATING THE ESTEBAN MADRONA MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL - BINONGAAN ANNEX IN BARANGAY BINONGAAN, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN AGUSTIN, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON FROM THE ESTEBAN MADRONA MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BINONGAAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;**
4. **Substitute Bill to House Bill No. 2345 - AN ACT SEPARATING THE MAGDIWANG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - AGUTAY ANNEX IN BARANGAY AGUTAY, MUNICIPALITY OF MAGDIWANG, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON FROM THE MAGDIWANG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS AGUTAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;**
5. **House Bill No. 4403 - AN ACT SEPARATING THE TAGASAKA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - LOYOLA ANNEX IN BARANGAY LOYOLA, MUNICIPALITY OF HINATUAN**

PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR, FROM THE TAGASAKA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL. CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE LOYOLA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR; and

- 6 **Substitute Bill to House Bill No. 5702 - AN ACT SEPARATING THE CABULOHAN-PARADISE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - CABANGLASAN ANNEX IN BARANGAY POBLACION, MUNICIPALITY OF CABANGLASAN, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON FROM THE CABULOHAN-PARADISE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS CABANGLASAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.**

Please be informed that the Committee recommends the approval of the above mentioned bills without amendment.

Very truly yours,


JOSEPH EMILIO AGUINALDO ABAYA

Cc Rep. Florencio T. Flores, Jr.
Rep. Florencio C. Garay
Rep. Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona
Rep. Benhur L. Salimbangon

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE
3rd Floor, Ramon V. Mitra, Jr. Building, Batasan Complex, Quezon City

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE
HELD ON FEBRUARY 1, 2011, 9:30 A.M., AT CONFERENCE ROOM NOS. 14 & 15, RAMON V.
MITRA, JR. BUILDING, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, QUEZON CITY**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman, Rep. Salvador H. Escudero III, called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

On motion of Rep. Eulogio Magsaysay, duly seconded, the calling of the roll was dispensed with.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 18, 2010

On motion duly seconded by Rep. Antonio Tinio, the minutes of the meeting held on January 18, 2010, 2010 was approved.

IV. DELIBERATION/CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING MEASURES:

On National Bills/Resolutions -

On House Bill No. 128 entitled, "Granting One Dependent Child of Public Elementary and High School Teachers a Free Tertiary Education in Any State College/University, authored by Rep. Al Francis Bichara

Initially, Rep. Bichara said that his bill seeks to provide incentives to public school teachers in the form of benefits which although will not increase their salary, will, however, lessen their expenses. He also mentioned that the children of Barangay Captains and Barangay Officials, during their incumbency, were granted exemption from paying tuition fees in state colleges and universities.

In response to the query of the Chair with respect to the financial implication of his bill, Rep. Bichara replied that the Committee has to hear the position of the state universities and colleges if they are willing to accommodate the children of public school teachers.

Rep. Florencio Flores suggested that teachers in private elementary and high schools should also be considered in the bill.

The suggestion was shared by Chairman Escudero. He said that there is a wrong presumption that teachers in private schools receive higher salaries than those teaching in public schools.

Rep. Mariano Piamonte also mentioned that the great majority of private schools, especially those in rural areas are paying their teachers with less than the minimum salary while teachers in the public schools are guaranteed a standardized salary regardless of the location of the school.

Rep. Mel Senen Sarmiento opined that teachers in private schools are now transferring to DepEd because of higher salary. Thus, the quality of education in some private schools suffered tremendously because private schools tend to hire mediocre teachers. However, before embarking into a similar program, he said the problem facing the barangay officials and that of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) in relation to the scholarship program that CHED is supposed to provide for them should be addressed first. If this will be addressed, it would be easy to implement this particular measure.

The author said the term "Volunteer Educators" is part and parcel of volunteerism itself. Volunteer Educators have the qualifications as prescribed by the DepEd. Some of them are LET passers, therefore, civil service eligible. However, they do not have any teacher item as provided by DepEd. They are usually hired by Local Government Units (LGUs).

Meanwhile, the chair clarified that "Volunteered Teachers" are those teachers which do not receive the salary as prescribed by the law. It ranges from P1,000.00 to P3,000.00. He said that these teachers are LET passers. The problem with DepEd according to him was when there is a teacher item that is available, they do not give priority to volunteer teachers. He added that volunteer teachers are now recognized by the DepEd considering that they are giving grades to their students.

Rep. Bichara opined that when items are available, priority should be given to those in ranking.

Meanwhile, Rep. Flores shared his experience when he was still a local executive. According to him they hired teachers on a per job order basis. The schools superintendent do not allow these teachers to handle a class so they only assist the regular teachers. But due to the shortage of teachers, they were already allowed to handle a class and were paid the salary equivalent to that of a utility worker on a per job order-part time basis.

Rep. Benhur Salimhangon also relayed that in his district alone, there are 350 volunteer teachers who are board passers. He said that his district has been allocated fifteen (15) items every year. The DepEd Secretary has assured him that the problem on volunteer teachers will be solved in five years. He is also of the position that volunteer teachers should be hired on a permanent basis after 2 or 3 years in service as long as they are qualified.

Meanwhile, Rep. Tinio clarified that DepEd is not using the term "Volunteer Teachers". The terms presently being used by DepEd are *Contractual Teachers* because their contract is with the LGU and the *Local School Board Teachers* because they are being paid by the Local School board. He said there are about 48,000 local school board teachers nationwide.

Rep. Carlos Padilla also inquired whether he is correct to assume that volunteer teachers refer to those that are being paid by the Local School Board, the Provincial School board and the Municipal School board. The Chair answered in the affirmative.

On the matter of giving priority to volunteer teachers when items become available, Assistant Secretary Tonisito Umali explained that at present, there is no department order which states that priority should be given to teachers who are under the contract of service or LGU paid teachers. However, he said that sans any written order, these teachers are always given priority. What they have is Department Order No. 20, s.2009 which lists the requirement for teachers. There is also the Registry of Qualified Applicants (RQA) where they get the teachers that will be hired. Asec. Umali assured the Committee that DepEd will soon issue a department order to this effect.

In reaction, Rep. Padilla opined that even on the ranking of applicants for new items, the volunteer teachers were not being captured on the present scheme being adopted by DepEd. He then asked whether it is possible to include in the ranking the number of years that volunteer teachers are in service, whether they are provincial or municipal paid.

Asec. Umali informed the Members that all their suggestions are well taken. He added that their Research Statistics Division (RSD) is in-charge of all the data pertaining to teachers. He promised to give the members feedback on their proposal to include in the ranking the number of years in service of volunteer teachers.

At this juncture, the Chair asked Asec. Umali to submit a written position of DepEd in so far as the bill of Rep. Magsaysay is concerned.

In the meantime, Rep. Sarmiento narrated that when he became a Mayor in the year 2007, he encountered the same problem with their local school board paid teachers. According to him, since they can only accommodate seventy (70) teachers at that time based on their ranking, they came up with a solution, that is – when a teacher retires, teacher No. 1 replaces the retired teacher and when teacher 1 retires, teacher 2 will get the position of teacher 1 and so on and so forth. With this procedure, an LSB paid teacher gets an item in six to eight months. However, in the year 2009, this policy of DepEd was changed.

Chairman Escudero suggested that a provision be included in the bill which give priority to volunteer teachers in the hiring of teachers on a permanent basis. The author submits to this suggestion of the Chair.

Rep. Evardone pointed out that in the bill of Rep. Magsaysay, one of the criteria for a volunteer teacher to get an item in the DepEd is five (5) years of continuous service. He believed that this was unrealistic considering that LGU paid teachers remained in their post for only three (3) years. This is because LGU officials has a term of only three years. If the teacher is not an ally of the incumbent LGU official, he/she is not retained by said LGU official. He then suggested that instead of the 5 years requirement, that it be changed to 3 years. There being no objection, the suggestion of Rep. Evardone was carried.

In response to the author's query on the status of his bill, Chairman Escudero said the Committee will wait for the DepEd's submission of its position paper.

On House Bill No. 3938 entitled, Declaring Camp Aguinaldo and Camp Crame as Historical and National Cultural Treasures", authored by Rep. Hermilando Mandanas

In his sponsorial speech, Rep. Mandanas conveyed that on February 25 this year, the country will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the People Power revolution which actually occurred on February 25, 1986 in Camp Aguinaldo and Camp Crame. He said there is a move by the Department of Finance to raise funds through the sale or privatization of these two (2) camps. According to him, these two camps represent symbols for freedom and liberty for the Filipino people and they should be considered as historical sites and should be beyond the commerce of man.

Rep. Mandanas maintained that this is the time when there is a need for the Filipinos to have monuments that would really concretely manifest our cultural heritage, love for freedom and liberty and this should be visible, concrete, tangible and should be in front of Camp Aguinaldo and Camp Crame. His bill, therefore, aimed to have Camp Aguinaldo and Camp Crame declared as historical and national cultural treasures.

The chair then asked Ms. Carminda Arevalo, Deputy Executive Director of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) for their position on the bill of Rep. Mandanas.

Ms. Arevalo stated that the NHCP, the agency mandated to declare historic sites and structures, supports the bill and assured the proponent that upon the bill's enactment into law, the requirements and mandates of the law shall be complied with, namely: (1) historical research; (2) documentation and complete staff work; (3) NHCP Board Resolution; and (4) declaration, installation and unveiling of historical markers. She said these requirements and processes will suffice without the need for implementing rules and regulations. They can also extend technical assistance to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) with regards to the preservation and development of the two historic structures.

At this point, Rep. Salimbangon inquired on the present situation on the two (2) camps citing the situation now prevailing in Camp Lapu-Lapu in Cebu which the provincial government now wants to repossessed because the military personnel assigned in the camp now squat on the big portion of the said camp.

In reaction, Rep. Mandanas said he is not aware of such situation inside the two camps. However, he said he is aware that the Chief of Staff and certain officers, while in office, are provided with a house inside the camps. He is also aware that there are housing projects inside the camps which are authorized.

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Tinio, recognizing the historical significance of the two camps as well as the important points raised by the proponent, moved for the approval of the bill.

In the meantime, Rep. Piamonte raised some concerns like for instance, one of the reasons why the government plans to privatize the two camps is not only to generate income but because the place is becoming risky especially for people who lived around the area in case of an attack, whether internal or external. His other concern was, what will happen to the land, structures and buildings inside the camps, including the maintenance when the camps will be vacated by its occupants, the military and the police.

Meanwhile, Rep. Mercado-Revilla asked for clarification with regards to a news article which states that sometime last year, the AFP got a proposal from the property firm of Ortigas and Company on the conversion of Camp Aguinaldo and Camp Crame. Citing the news article, she said Ortigas and company will donate new land to the Armed Forces if it agrees to the sale of the 178 hectares Property. She also inquired on the status of the offer of Ortigas and Company.

In reaction, Rep. Sigfrido Tinga said he used to be connected with the Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation which handles the privatization of Fort Bonifacio. According to him, in the case of the two camps, privatization is not the issue. He said the condition of the donation of the land requires that Camp Aguinaldo and Camp Crame should be maintained as military camps and should they be privatized, the Philippine government should first return the property to the Ortigas and it is the latter which will privatize the said property. In case the property will be returned to the Ortigas, the latter will donate another area for the military in another location. He categorically stated that the government nor the military cannot privatize the area or develop the same for commercial purposes.

Meanwhile, Rep. Sarmiento expressed concern on what will be the effect in case the area where the two camps are situated will be converted into a commercial area considering the climate change, the emission of carbon dioxide from the vehicles plying the EDSA, not to mention that the area lacked green zones.

Rep. Palatino shared the same sentiment as that of Rep. Sarmiento, adding that EDSA should also be decongested.

Meanwhile, Rep. Ben Evardone inquired that if ever the bill will be approved, would the original wordings of the Deed of Donation prevail and would the said approval restrain the Ortigas from selling or leasing the property.

The Chair opined that the original wordings of the Deed of donation will have to be respected and the original donation is still valid.

Rep. Mandanas maintained that the intention of his bill is not to change the use of the place but just declaring that it become part of our historical and national treasure. And even if the camps will be outside the commerce of man, it will not affect the deed of donation. He said he consider it a desecration of a historic symbol if the place itself will be sold or developed into a commercial area because it will be against the (1) donation and (2) climate change. Lastly, he said his bill is only asking for the declaration of the area.

Rep. Salimbangon remarked that the bill is anchored on the existing condition that these two camps will not be used for commercial or other purposes, otherwise they will be reverted to the original owners. While they are still there, these two camps will be declared as historical sites and it will not affect their current status. He then moved to second the earlier motion of Rep. Tinio.

Rep. Tinga is also of the opinion there is nothing wrong with the bill of Rep. Mandanas and considering that said bill will help ensure that the area have already been recognized as historical sites, in case, later on, it will be turned into a commercial area. He also moved for the approval of the bill.

On the earlier motion of Rep. Tinio, duly seconded by Reps. Salimbangon and Tinga, H.B. No. 3938 was subsequently approved.

On House Resolution Nos. 751 and 236, Expressing the Sentiments of the House of Representatives and the Pleas of the Filipino People Calling for the Return of the Three (3) Balangiga Bells and Other Artifacts by the United States Government, authored by Reps. Evardone, Casino, Colmenares, Lescudero, Violago, Mercado, Mercado-Revilla, K. Cojuangco, Leves and Apostol.

At the outset, Rep. Casino informed the body that H.R. No. 751 has already been approved in the Plenary while HB 236, which he authored, was not taken up in the committee level prompting him to deliver a speech in the plenary. Subsequently, H.B. No. 751 was recommitted to the Committee.

Rep. Casino manifested that the two (2) bills are quite similar except that the approved resolution incorporated the suggestions of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) who wanted the resolution to be more diplomatic and not aggressive.

With respect to House Resolution No. 751, he stated that:

- The resolution removed the context of the demand for the return of the Balangiga Bells.
- The title itself is simply to recover the bells and to finally heal the wounds caused by the Filipino-American war.
- It does not reflect the historical significance of the need to return these bells to the Philippines.
- It fails to state the substantive meaning of the Balangiga Bells.

With respect to House Resolution No. 236, he stated that:

- It contained a concise narration of the history of the bells.
- It categorically states that it was not a massacre as the U.S. government and historians would present but it was a surprise attack by the Filipinos on the Americans.
- It mentioned the significance of the bells on said surprise attack. The bells were actually used to signal the attack of the villagers on the night of September 28, 1901.
- It considers the attack of the people of Samar on the Americans as an act of self defense and survival considering the forced labor and other abuses that were committed against them at that time by the American forces.
- Not only the Americans suffered but 28 Filipinos were killed in the attack. After the attack, Brig. Gen. Jacob Smith of the U.S. Army ordered that Samar be made a howling wilderness. Later on, Brig. Gen. Smith was eventually sentenced to court marshal for murder and was forced to retire from the service because of the brutality that he and his forces did in Samar.
- Efforts of some organizations, Bishops, even the U.S. Congress which passed in 2003 a resolution which recognizes the attack as legitimate in the context of the Filipino people struggle and acknowledged that the bells will have to be returned to the Philippines and as a gesture of respect and goodwill, the resolution is asking the U.S. government to return the three bells and one cannon.

Meanwhile, Rep. Evardone, principal author of HB No. 751, explained that he acceded to the resolution drafted by the DFA because of their representation that we should come up with a diplomatic approach to recover the bells.

Chairman Lescudero suggested that the two (2) authors come up with the final version of the resolution.

Reps. Evardone and Casino agree with the suggestion of the Chair. Rep. Evardone then moved that the Committee adopt in principle the resolution. There being no objection, the same was carried.

On House Bill No. 1414 entitled, Declaring as National Heroes Those Who Led the Revolution Against Spain and the United States in Mindanao, by Reps. Rufus and Maximo Rodriguez

Upon recognition by the Chair, Rep. Maximo Rodriguez, one of the authors, mentioned that in all the books written on Philippine history, so little has been told about the heroes who have contributed to the Philippine Independence.

Thereafter, he manifested that the explanatory note of their bill be adopted as their sponsorship speech.

At this juncture, Chairman Escudero asked for the basis of declaring as national heroes those who led the revolution against Spain and the United States in Mindanao.

Rep. Rodriguez (M) replied that it is to be able to educate the people that the Philippine Independence was achieved not only through the participation of heroes in Luzon but also the heroes in Mindanao. He said the purpose of their bill is to seek recognition for these heroes.

In reaction, the Chair stated that he personally do not believed in declaring heroes. According to him, heroes are made in the minds and hearts of the people. He added that the personalities that Rep. Rodriguez mentioned are already heroes in their own rights. He is also of the opinion that heroes are not legislated. Recognizing them is the responsibility of the Local Government.

When asked to comment on the bill, Exec. Dir. Arevalo of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) declared that they support the bill by undertaking a full blown research on the life and works of heroes who fought during the revolution against Spain and the war against the United States, to publish books about the heroes in Mindanao, erect monuments if funds are available and install historical markers on different sites of war against the Spaniards and the Americans in coordination with the local government units. However, on the declaration of heroes, the NHCP is of the position that heroes are made through acclamation and not through legislation.

Rep. Sarmiento suggested that the LGUs be required or encouraged to do research on local heroes and probably publish a book about them so that students will be apprised of the heroes in their locality.

In response to the query of Rep. Padilla, Asec. Umali mentioned that discussion about local heroes was not part of the subject in History.

Rep. Zamora-Apsay mentioned that in her district, through the local school board, the Division Schools Superintendent issued a memorandum to all schools to include in their History subject a discussion on local history.

She said that she agrees with Rep. Padilla that DepEd should probably issue, if possible, a department policy directing their division superintendents to include the discussion of local history in the curriculum.

The Chair remarked that schools' curricula are already overloaded. He then requested Asec. Umali to find a way on how to institutionalize unknown heroes. In response, Asec. Umali said DepEd will look into the matter.

At this juncture, the Chair asked the authors if they are amenable of filing a resolution instead. Rep. Rodriguez (M) replied in the affirmative.

Rep. Rodriguez (R) explained that the reason why they filed H.B. No. 1414 is because the local heroes in Mindanao were not recognized or even mentioned in history books and the only way they will be recognized is through national legislation. However, he said he is amenable in changing the title of the bill that instead of recognizing and declaring them as national heroes, the bill would seek the recognition of the heroic acts of those who led the revolution against Spain and the United States.

Rep. Zamora-Apsay manifested that since the Committee needed more time to be able to conduct a more thorough discussion on the bill of Rep. Rodriguez, she suggested that another meeting be set for this purpose.

There being no objection to the suggestion of Rep. Zamora-Apsay, the Chair terminated, for the meantime, the discussion on HB No. 1414.

On House Bill No. 3930 entitled, "Declaring May 2011 to May 2012 as *The Dr. Jose Rizal Renaissance Year and for Other Purposes*", authored by Reps. S. Jalosjos, C. Jalosjos and R. Jalosjos, Jr.

Rep. Cesar Jalosjos stated that their bill seeks to declare May, 2011 to May, 2012 as the Dr. Jose Rizal Renaissance Year to commemorate the life, works, advocacies and achievements of our national hero in time for the celebration of his 150th birthday and 115th year of martyrdom.

Asked to comment on the bill, NHCP Exec. Dir. Arevalo informed the Body that as early as May, 2010, former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issued Administrative Order No. 287 directing the NHCP to lead the celebration of Dr. Jose Rizal's 150th anniversary. The NHCP then created an executive committee for this purpose. On December 30, 2010, President Benigno Aquino launched the Dr. Jose Rizal 150th commemorative activities through the unveiling of the Jose Rizal Logo. She then suggested that since the activities cited in the bill were already being undertaken, that they will just consolidate all these activities and come up with a general Calendar of Activities for said celebration.

The Chair then asked the resource person to provide Rep. Jalosjos with a copy of the calendar of activities.

In response to the query of the Chair, Exec. Dir. Arevalo replied that the center of celebration will be held in Laguna. Simultaneously, there will be activities to be held in Fort Santiago and Dapitan City.

With respect to the budgetary allocation for the activities previously cited, Exec. Dir. Arevalo said the budget allocation is Ten million pesos (P10 M). The amount of P2 M had already been released to them. However, she confided that the P10 M is not enough to cover the expenses of the activities. They needed P40 million pesos.

Meanwhile, Rep. Jalosjos reminded the Body that the bill also includes a budgetary provision for Three hundred fifty million pesos (P350 million) which will be used in the restoration of some facilities including Fort Santiago, Rizal's house in Calamba, Laguna and Dapitan Shrine in Dapitan City.

As to the participation of DepEd on said activities, Asec. Umali said they will submit a formal position paper on the matter.

The Chair also asked Asec. Umali to incorporate in the DepEd budget for the year 2012 the budgetary requirement for the entire activities. Asec. Umali assured the Chair that he will relay the information to their Undersecretary for Finance.

The Chair then directed the Committee Secretary to prepare a resolution requesting for the release of P40 million to be used in the all-year round celebration of the 150th anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal.

On Local School Bills –

On the omnibus motion of Rep. Salimbangon, duly seconded, the following local school bills were considered approved subject to style, amendments and submission of documentary requirements:

A. Establishment of National High Schools

1. HB No. 2062 - Sto Niño National High School, authored by Rep. Ungab
2. HB No. 2063 - Saloy National High School, authored by Rep. Ungab
3. HB No. 2170 - Baesa National High School, authored by Rep. Castelo
4. HB No. 2171 - Gulod National High School, authored by Rep. Castelo
5. HB No. 2210 - San Pablo City National High School, authored by Rep. Arago
6. HB No. 2211 - Santa Felomina National High School, authored by Rep. Arago
7. HB No. 2317 - Lapero National High School, authored by Rep. Labadlabad
8. HB No. 2318 - Lipakan National High School, authored by Rep. Labadlabad

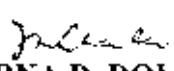
B. Separation of National High Schools

1. HB No. 1875 - Calape National High School, authored by Rep. Salimbangon
2. HB No. 2342 - Napuro National High School, authored by Rep. Sarmiento
3. HB No. 2344 - Binonga National High School, authored by Rep. Madrona

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Prepared by:


MYRNA D. DOLOR

Supervising Legislative Staff Officer II

Noted by:


MA. JOSEFINA R. RICAFORT

Committee Secretary

Approved:


HON. SALVADOR H. ESCUDERO III

Chairperson