

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 1124



Introduced by Reps. NERI J. COLMENARES and CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE

AN ACT
DECLARING JULY 7 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY
TO COMMEMORATE THE FOUNDING OF THE KATIPUNAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Most Filipinos know about the *Katipunan* and Andres Bonifacio, and their very important roles in the fight against the brutal Spanish colonial rule and the emergence and development of the First Philippine Republic.

Yet, very few of us know the actual date when Bonifacio and several other patriotic “*indios*” came together to formally organize the *Kataastaasang Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan*, and sealed their membership in the secret society by signing the pact with their own blood, vowing to end the more than three hundred years of Spanish domination over the islands.

Sadly that historic day, which led to the dawning of the Filipino nation, has long dimmed in the national consciousness. Thus, there is a need to commemorate the night of July 7, 1892, when Bonifacio, Valentin Diaz, Deodato Arellano, Teodoro Plata, Ladislao Diwa, and their other compatriots secretly met in a house along 72 Azcarraga Street (now Claro M. Recto Street) near Candelaria Street (now Elcano Street) in Tondo, Manila.

Historian Carmen Guerrero Nakpil aptly described that event as “the spark that lit the prairie fire”; it was then when the grievances of the “sacristans, forced laborers, farmers, intrepid widows, native priests, galleon builders, and port-sergeants” and the aspirations of “Gomburza, the Propaganda Movement, the secret societies, the poets, artists, lawyers, polemicists, and the novels of Rizal” were finally crystallized into a revolutionary call for a free and sovereign Filipino nation. It was the *Katipunan* that gave the first concrete embodiment of the Filipino nation.

The ardent patriotism, the selflessness, and the dedicated pursuit of liberty, equality, and fraternity in a free and democratic society of the founders of the *Katipunan* must be instilled in the Filipinos of today.

For these reasons, the expeditious approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

Approved,



NERI JAVIER COLMENARES
Bayan Muna Party-list

CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Party-list

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

SECTION 1. July 7 of every year shall be declared a special working holiday to commemorate the founding of the *Kataastaasang Katipunan ng Mga Anak ng Bayan (Katipunan)* by Filipino patriots led by Andres Bonifacio as a secret society that fought for the independence of the then emerging Filipino nation from the clutches of Spanish colonial rule.

SEC. 2. To pay homage and respect to the founders of the *Katipunan* and to rededicate the Filipino nation to the ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity, all public and private offices and facilities are hereby mandated to conduct a flag-raising ceremony where the following *Katipunan* tunes shall be played – “*Marangal na Dalit ng Katagalugan*”, “*Alerta Katipunan*”, and “*Jocelynang Baliuag*.”

SEC. 3. To further ensure the meaningful observance of the holiday, the elementary, secondary, and tertiary schools shall conduct any prominent activity concerning the *Katipunan*, its founders, and its founding ideals, and which shall include the singing of “*Marangal na Dalit ng Katagalugan*”, “*Alerta Katipunan*”, and “*Jocelynang Baliuag*”, at least three days before the said holiday.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,