

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

8136
HOUSE BILL NO. _____



Introduced by **Representative Ferdinand L. Hernandez**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XVI, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides: *"The flag of the Philippines shall be red, white, and blue, with a sun and three stars, as consecrated and honored by the people and recognized by law."*

The Philippine flag, a tri-color featuring red and blue with white triangle framing three yellow stars and anthropomorphic eight-rayed sun, was sewn in Hong Kong by Doña Marcela Agoncillo, assisted by her daughter Lorenzana and by Delfina Herbosa Natividad and brought to the Philippines by General Emilio Aguinaldo. On May 28, 1898, the Filipino troops were engaged in a skirmish battle against Spanish forces in Alapan, Cavite wherein the Philippine flag was first unfurled as revolutionary standard. Half a month later, the same flag was formally unfurled during the proclamation of Philippine Independence in Kawit, Cavite on June 12, 1898 by President Emilio Aguinaldo.

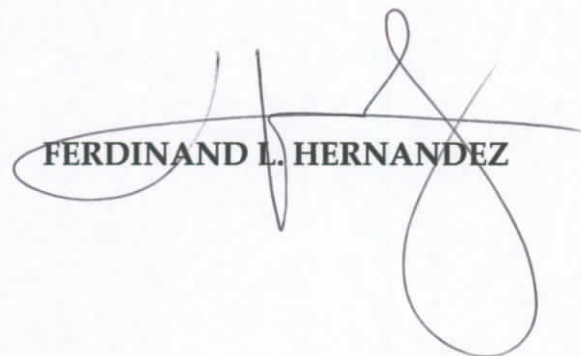
Republic Act No. 8491, the law governing the design, manner of display, and observance of respect for the Philippine flag, was enacted fittingly in 1998 or on the centennial of Philippine independence. The design adopted the mythical sun (with a face) common to many former Spanish colonies; the triangle of Masonry; the eight rays representing the first eight provinces that revolted and were put under martial law by the Spaniards during the start of the Philippine Revolution in 1896, namely: Batangas, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Manila, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, and Tarlac. There are three stars representing the three major geographical divisions of the country: Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao. Not only does the flag represent principles of sovereignty and solidarity of the Philippine nation, it embodies the ideals and traditions of the Filipino people developed over the course of national history. Of history we refer to the period before the arrival of the Spanish up to the present, centuries replete with stories of struggles for independence and victory against colonizers. Behind the stories of the most celebrated names of national heroes lie the stories of our mostly-forgotten Muslim heroes, who displayed tremendous courage in the battles that they fought.

Among the most valiant soldiers were Lapu-Lapu, the king of Mactan, known as the first native of the archipelago to have resisted Spanish colonization. On the morning of April 27, 1521, Lapu-Lapu and the men of Mactan, armed with spears and kampilan,

faced Spanish soldiers led by Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan. In what would later be known as the Battle of Mactan, Magellan and several of his men were killed.

There was also Sultan Kudarat, who united the Muslim clans in Cotabato, Lanao, and Basilan, and ruled for 50 years. He led many raids and battles against the Spanish from 1634 up to 1668 and inspired the Maranaos to oppose the building of a Spanish fort near Lake Lanao. There was also the story of Sirongan, the Rajah of Buayan, who successfully pushed back the enemy into the coast of Rio Grande, thwarting the first Spanish attempt to colonize Buayan. He killed Esteban Rodriguez de Figueroa who led the first Spanish expedition to Cotabato. There were Kaliph Pulaka, Datu Amai Pakpak, Kapitan Laut Buisan, Sultan Jamalu'l Alani, Sultan Muwallil Wasit, Paduka Batara and Panginan Sarikula, who all fearlessly led their men in battles against the Spanish.

With their bravery, our Muslim heroes left an imprint on national history that, at the very least, must be given due recognition in the most heraldic item of national importance the Philippine flag. This bill proposes that the rays of the sun on the Philippine flag be increased from eight to nine, to symbolize the community of Muslim leaders who defended our land. They are our forgotten heroes, and through this proposal we seek to inculcate in the minds and hearts of our people a just pride in their native Muslim brothers who sacrificed their lives for the country's freedom. For these considerations, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ

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HOUSE BILL NO. 8136

Introduced by **Representative Ferdinand L. Hernandez**

**AN ACT INCREASING THE NUMBER OF RAYS OF THE SUN ON THE
PHILIPPINE FLAG FROM EIGHT TO NINE, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 8491, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FLAG AND HERALDIC CODE OF THE
PHILIPPINES**

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 8491, otherwise known as the Flag
2 and Heraldic Code of the Philippines, is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 "SECTION 4. The flag of the Philippines shall be blue, white, and red, a[n]
4 NINE[eight]-rayed golden-yellow sun, and three five-pointed stars, as
5 consecrated and honored by the people."

6 Sec. 2. *Appropriation.* – The initial funding to carry out the provision of this Act
7 shall be charged against the current year's appropriation. Thereafter, such sums as may
8 be necessary shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

9 Sec. 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or other
10 issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
11 repealed or modified accordingly.

12 Sec. 4. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the
13 completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general
14 circulation in the Philippines.

15 Approved,