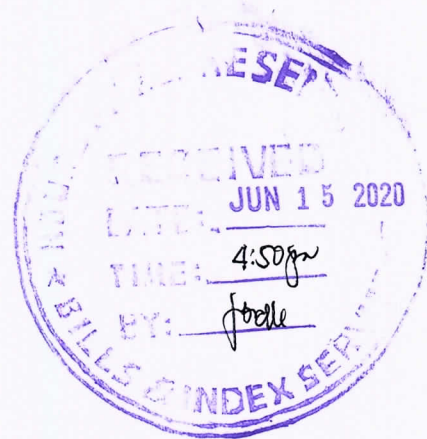




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7000

Introduced by **Representative AMIHILDA J. SANGCOPAN** of Anak
Mindanao (AMIN) Party-List

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare March 18 of every year as the Bangsamoro Day in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to commemorate the Jabidah Massacre.

Before the massacre of young Bangsamoro men in the Island of Corregidor on March 18, 1968, Jabidah was nothing but a name of a beautiful woman of a Muslim lore.

The Jabidah Massacre first came to public attention on March 18, 1968 when two fishermen rescued a man named Jibin Arula from the waters just off Caballo Island in Manila Bay. He had gunshot wounds and he recounted that he was the lone survivor of the killing of a group of Muslim army recruits by armed personnel. The gist of the narrative recounted that the trainees refused to continue their training for Oplan Jabidah and demanded to be returned home. That particular batch of recruits were disarmed, a number were sent home and some others were transferred to a regular military camp in Luzon. Another batch of recruits were killed by armed personnel, with only one survivor, Jibin Arula, managing to escape.

Until now, there are some interpretations that the fateful event never took place. In spite of the disputes about the facts of the massacre, historians agree that the Jabidah Massacre was one of the most important flashpoints that ignited the Muslim insurgency in the Philippines. The massacre significantly brought Muslim intellectuals, who, prior to the incident had no discernible interest in politics, into the political scene.

In recent years, the landscape of Corregidor has learned to tell the story of the massacre.

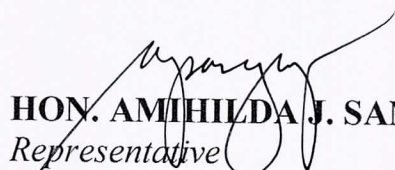
In 2015, a marker for the “*Mindanao Garden of Peace*” was installed by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), affirming that the island “*served as a camp for training Moro youth as a secret group led by the Philippine Army.*” The marker represented a moment of triumph in the Bangsamoro struggle against centuries of historical injustice in the Philippines.

A few steps away from the NHCP marker is a smaller one, installed seven years earlier. The Jabidah marker, signed by then Anak Mindanao Representative Mujiv Hataman, is “*dedicated to the Moro youth who were killed*” in the massacre that “*sparked the Bangsamoro struggle for national self-determination.*”

This year marks the 52nd anniversary of the infamous Jabidah Massacre. The declaration of March 18 as Bangsamoro Day will give the Bangsamoro people a chance to revisit the struggles of their forbears as they move towards the dream of being recognized as a unified political unit existing harmoniously with the lumads and even the migrant settlers.

The commemoration of the Jabidah Massacre will capture and integrate in the history of the Bangsamoro people the turbulent days that unified the Muslim ethnic groups towards the fulfillment of their aspiration as an empowered and self-directed people.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. AMIHILDA J. SANGCOPAN
Representative
Anak Mindanao (AMIN) Party-List



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HOUSE BILL NO. **7000**

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AN ACT

**DECLARING MARCH 18 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE BANGSAMORO
DAY IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM
MINDANAO TO COMMEMORATE THE JABIDAH MASSACRE**

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

SECTION 1. March 18 of every year is hereby declared as the official
Bangsamoro Day in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
(BARMM) to commemorate the Jabida Massacre which happened on March 18,
1968.

SEC. 2. The regional government of the BARMM shall, in coordination
with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, the Department of
Education, and the Commission on Higher Education, lead in the

1 implementation of appropriate and meaningful commemorative programs and
2 activities in the celebration of the Bangsamoro Day. The celebration shall be
3 participated in by the officials and employees of the regional, provincial and
4 municipal governments of the BARMM, the civic, religious, nongovernment,
5 business and civil society organizations, and the students in order to deepen the
6 understanding of the significance of the Bangsamoro Day and instill a sense of
7 pride towards the enrichment of the history of the Bangsamoro people.

8 SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
9 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

10 Approved,