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Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

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HOUSE BILL NO. **9846**

Introduced by Representative LORDAN G. SUAN

AN ACT
DECLARING GAT JOSE P. RIZAL AS THE NATIONAL HERO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our nation has a rich history, shaped by enduring challenges like foreign rule, where various nations once took control of the Philippines. Our ancestors, strong and determined, navigated a past filled with struggle and hardship, standing resolute in the face of sorrow and violence. The stories of heroes who fought fearlessly during these times echo through history, their unshakeable belief rooted in the hope that our country would eventually break free from oppression.

In the midst of current challenges, particularly those arising from the issues in the West Philippine Sea, a timely opportunity arises for us to rekindle our love and dedication to our nation. Now, more than ever, it is imperative to formally acknowledge a pivotal figure in our history—Gat Jose P. Rizal. This recognition serves as a wellspring of inspiration, reminding us of the paramount importance of cherishing and safeguarding our homeland, all the while prioritizing the safety of our fellow citizens.

Gat Rizal, a dedicated advocate for our country, not only defended our nation through peaceful means but also emerged as a profound inspiration for other heroes during periods of oppression. His legacy serves as a guiding light, encouraging us to emulate his unwavering commitment to the betterment of our society and the protection of our national interests.

Gat Jose Rizal's contributions and achievements as a medical professional and on the international stage further solidify the justification for his official recognition as the National Hero. Apart from his literary masterpieces, Rizal earned licentiates in medicine from the Universidad Central de Madrid, showcasing his intellectual prowess in the medical field. His dedication to education and his role as a physician reflect his multifaceted brilliance, adding a unique dimension to his legacy.

On the international front, Gat Jose Rizal's achievements stand as a testament to his global impact. His involvement in the Propaganda Movement in Europe aimed at advocating for reforms in the Philippines garnered international attention. Rizal's connections with prominent intellectuals and leaders of his time, such as Ferdinand Blumentritt, highlight his influence on the global stage.

Republic Act No. 1425, commonly known as the Rizal Law, underscores the importance of studying the life, works, and writings of Gat Jose Rizal in educational institutions. This legislation acknowledges the pivotal role he played in shaping the nation's consciousness and inspiring resistance against oppression. The recognition of Rizal as our National Hero is implicit in this law, emphasizing the need for a formal declaration.

As stated clearly in Republic Act No. 11144, which designates a special non-working holiday across the entire province of Laguna, it indicates that this holiday is meant to honor the birth of our NATIONAL HERO, Gat Jose P. Rizal. Such legislative measures distinctly affirm our nation's recognition and acknowledgment of Gat Jose P. Rizal as the National Hero.

This proposed bill aims to address the longstanding issues and obstacles hindering the official declaration of Gat Jose Rizal as the National Hero. By filling this legislative void, we not only honor the man himself but also the ideals he passionately advocated. The bill ensures that future generations draw inspiration from Rizal's diverse legacy, be it in literature, medicine, or international relations, affirming our commitment to preserving and celebrating the values that have shaped our nation's identity and resilience. In recognizing Gat Jose Rizal as our official National Hero, we affirm our dedication to a future built on justice, equality, and enlightened patriotism.

In light of the preceding, this bill’s approval is fervently sought.



LORDAN G. SUAN
Cagayan de Oro City – 1st District

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the *"National Hero Act."*

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby declared that our nation recognize and designate Gat. Jose P. Rizal as the National Hero of the Philippines. This designation is rooted in his exemplary life, which sets a good example for everyone. It inspires strong love for our country, a sense of duty to our community, and a commitment to fairness and freedom.

SECTION 3. The National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) is assigned as the primary agency to carry out this law. The NHCP will create and enforce necessary policies within its authority for the successful implementation of this act. The NHCP, in collaboration with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and in coordination with local government units, will install a monument or bust of Jose Rizal in every provincial, city, or municipal plaza across the country.

SECTION 4. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary for implementing this Act shall be taken from the current budget of the NHCP. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NHCP and National Heroes Committee, in coordination with The Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* — Any portion or provisions of this Act that may be declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions or provisions can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, memoranda, circulars, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette, in a newspaper of general circulation, or on a website provided for by law.

Approved,