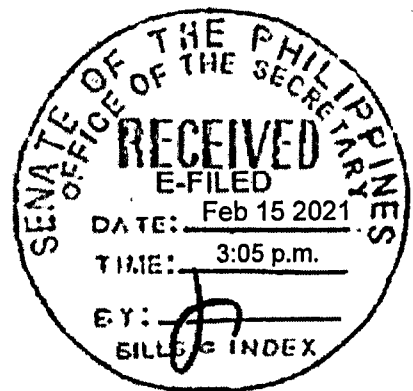


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
Second Regular Session



SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 652

Introduced by **Senator RICHARD J. GORDON**

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**RESOLUTION**  
**EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES IN**  
**ACKNOWLEDGING LAPULAPU AS A SENTINEL OF FREEDOM WHO**  
**COURAGEOUSLY FOUGHT TO PROTECT HIS NATIVE LAND AND LED THE**  
**VICTORY AT MACTAN DURING THE FIRST CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF THE**  
**WORLD**

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**"Ne'er shall invaders trample thy sacred shores!"**

**WHEREAS**, Article XIV, Section 15 of the Constitution declares that it is the policy of the State to conserve, promote and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as its artistic creations;

**WHEREAS**, to advance this and under Republic Act No. 10086, or the "Strengthening People's Nationalism through Philippine History Act", the State shall provide the means to strengthen people's nationalism, love of country, respect for its heroes and pride for the people's accomplishments by reinforcing the importance of Philippine national and local history in daily life with the end in view of raising social consciousness; reinvigorating government support for historical research; and sustaining and enhancing programs for the protection, preservation and conservation of historical relics and memorabilia, monuments, sites and other historical resources;

**WHEREAS**, our history is rich with our ancestrals' nationalism, and one of the most inspiring is Lapulapu, a strong figure in the long line of Philippine national heroes. As the Philippines became part of the first circumnavigation of the world, Lapulapu, on April 27, 1521, valiantly resisted the first sign of invasion. To protect his land and his people, Lapulapu and his men attacked Ferdinand Magellan's troops with a heavy barrage of ranged weapons, consisting of arrows, iron-tipped "bamboo" throwing spears (probably rattan *bangkaw*), fire-hardened sticks, and even stones. They surrounded Magellan's landing party, attacking from the front and both flanks. The heavy armor of the Spaniards largely protected them from this barrage, inflicting only a handful of fatalities on the Europeans, but it was heavily demoralizing on the troops.<sup>1</sup> In the end, Magellan's musketeers and crossbowmen were no match to Lapulapu's strong will, conviction, and love for independence;

**WHEREAS**, this historic battle is what we now know as the Victory at Mactan;

**WHEREAS**, Lapulapu is clearly a Sentinel of Freedom, who is ready to protect his homeland from foreign domination, and as such, Lapulapu serves as a role model of chivalry and patriotism for the youth of today and tomorrow;

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<sup>1</sup> Angeles, Jose Amiel: "The Battle of Mactan and the Indigenous Discourse on War." *Philippine Studies* vol. 55, No. 1 (2007): pp. 3-52.

**WHEREAS**, to commemorate the momentous event in our Philippine history, i.e., the Victory at Mactan, and as a tribute to Lapulapu and his men's courage, Republic Act No. 11040, known as Lapulapu Day or Adlaw ni Lapulapu, was passed declaring April 27 of every year as a special working public holiday throughout the country and a special non-working holiday in the city of Lapulapu, province of Cebu;

**WHEREAS**, as important as Lapulapu's heroism, the Philippine part in the first circumnavigation of the world also brought to the country administrative unity, ultimately unifying its 7,100 Islands into one nation. It also introduced Catholicism as a new secular faith, and since then, Catholicism has become a major part of Philippine religious culture - as of 2010, 8 out of 10 Filipinos are Catholics, and about 76 million Catholics were living in the Philippines;<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine part in the first circumnavigation of the world truly enriched our history and culture, and strengthened our understanding of freedom; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate, to express the sense of the Senate of the Philippines in acknowledging that Lapulapu is a Sentinel of Freedom and in joining the nation in celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Philippine Part in the First Circumnavigation of the World.

Adopted,



**RICHARD J. GORDON**

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/01/09/5-facts-about-catholicism-in-the-philippines/>