

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE]
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES]
First Regular Session]

8 APR 15 P5:21

SENATE
S. No. 2162

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SEN. RICHARD J. GORDON

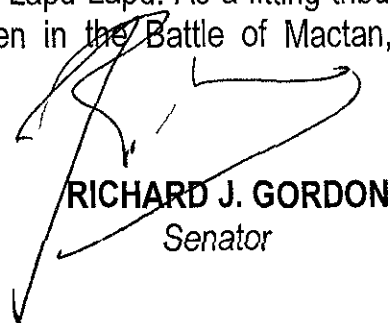
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Lapu-Lapu is the Philippine's first successful defender of our shores, and was a native Muslim on Mactan and a representative of the Sultan of Sulu. He was also the earliest known indigenous Visayan Muslim chieftain and datu in the island of Mactan. In Southeast Asia, Lapu-Lapu was alone in resisting Spanish colonization during the Age of Exploration.

When the Spaniards set foot on the Philippines, they had a goal to convert the local people to Spanish traditions and customs. Such was their interpretation of civilization, primary of which was conversion to Christianity. When Ferdinand Magellan, the leader of the Spanish expedition who arrived in the islands, offered his friendship to the natives of Mactan, he brought along with him Cebuanos under the rule of Raja Humabon who had converted to Christianity. There were two other datu in Mactan but only Lapu-Lapu refused to accept Magellan's offer.

On April 27, 1521, Lapu-Lapu, together with the men of Mactan, fought Magellan and the change he wanted to bring with the Spanish flag. Under the leadership of Lapu-Lapu, Magellan and his men were successfully defeated. Today, Lapu-Lapu is regarded as the first national hero of the Philippines.

In keeping with the Filipino tradition of commemorating momentous events in national history, this bill proposed the declaration of April 27 as an official national holiday to be known as Lapu-Lapu Day or Adlaw ni Lapu-Lapu. As a fitting tribute to the courage displayed by Lapu-Lapu and his men in the Battle of Mactan, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



RICHARD J. GORDON
Senator

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE]
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES]
First Regular Session]

8 APR 15 P5:21

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 2162

INTRODUCED BY SEN. RICHARD J. GORDON

**AN ACT
TO DECLARE APRIL 27 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING
HOLIDAY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE
VICTORY OF LAPU-LAPU AND HIS MEN OVER THE SPANIARDS LED BY
FERNANDO MAGALLANES IN THE HISTORIC BATTLE OF MACTAN ON
APRIL 27, 1521, TO BE KNOWN AS LAPU-LAPU DAY OR ADLAW NI LAPU-
LAPU**

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

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The twenty-seventh day of April of every year is hereby declared
- 2 as a special non-working holiday throughout the country to commemorate the victory
- 3 of Lapu-lapu and his men over the Spaniards in the historic battle of Mactan on April
- 4 17, 1521 to be known as Lapu-lapu Day or Adlaw ni Lapu-lapu.
- 5 **Sec. 2.** To ensure a meaningful observance of the holiday as herein declared,
- 6 all heads of government agencies and instrumentalities, including government
- 7 owned and controlled corporations as well as local government units, and employers
- 8 in the private sector shall encourage and afford sufficient time for their employees to
- 9 participate in any activity conducted in their respective localities for the celebration
- 10 of Lapu-lapu Day or Adlaw ni Lapu-lapu.
- 11 **Sec. 3.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at
- 12 least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.
- 13 Approved,