



SENATE
S.B. No. 999

'19 SEP -2 P5:05

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS** SENATED BY

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL HEROES COUNCIL UNDER THE
NATIONAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF THE PHILIPPINES,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

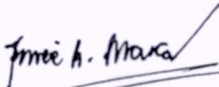
The 1987 Constitution provides that educational institutions shall inculcate patriotism, nationalism, and appreciation of the role of national heroes in the historical development of the country.

Currently, there is no law, executive order, or proclamation enacted or issued that officially proclaims any Filipino historical personage as a "National Hero," hence, compelling the President, Congress, national agencies, and local government units to, individually and sporadically, declare heroes' days and holidays, as requested.

On 15 November 1995, after careful deliberation and thorough study, nine (9) Filipinos were recommended as "National Heroes" by the National Heroes Committee, supposed to be established by Executive Order No. 75, series of 1993, as follows: (1) Jose Rizal, (2) Andres Bonifacio, (3) Emilio Aguinaldo, (4) Apolinario Mabini, (5) Marcelo H. del Pilar, (6) Sultan Dipatuan Kudarat, (7) Juan Luna, (8) Melchora Aquino, and (9) Gabriela Silang. However, despite the submission of the report to the Secretary of the Department of Education and Congress, no action has since been taken.

This bill seeks to create a National Heroes Council, within the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), which shall have the duty to select, and study exceptional Filipino personages as "National Heroes," in recognition of their personal accomplishments and invaluable contribution to the nation.

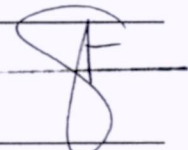
Thus, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


IMEE R. MARCOS
Senator

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

- 1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "National Heroes
2 *Council Act of 2019.*"
- 3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 ensure that educational institutions shall inculcate patriotism, nationalism, and
5 appreciation of the role of national heroes in the historical development of the
6 country. The National Heroes of the Philippines whose great sacrifice and inedible
7 legacy should be honored, as mandated by the Constitution, for the youth's
8 inspiration and emulation.
- 9 Sec. 3. *National Heroes Council.* – There is hereby created and established
10 the National Heroes Council, hereinafter referred to as the "Council," which shall be
11 under the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP). The Council
12 shall have the duty to study, evaluate, recommend, select, and declare Filipino
13 personages as "National Heroes," in recognition of their personal accomplishments
14 and invaluable contribution to the nation and in accordance to the criteria provided
15 in Sec. 5 of this Act.
- 16 Sec. 4. *Composition.* – The Council shall be composed of the following:
17 a) Chairperson of the NHCP;
18 b) One (1) representative from the Department of Education (DepEd);
19 c) One (1) representative from the National Commission for Culture and the
20 Arts (NCCA); and

1 d) Two (2) members from the academe who specialize on Philippine History.
2 *Provided that*, the NHCP Chairperson shall be considered as the Chairperson
3 of the Council. *Provided further that*, the members mentioned in subparagraphs (a)
4 to (c) shall be considered as *ex officio* members of the Council.

5 The Chairperson, from time to time, may require the participation of such
6 other government agencies or instrumentalities in the Council, as may be deemed
7 necessary.

8 Sec. 5. *Guidelines in the Selection of National Heroes.* – The Council shall
9 adopt the following guidelines for the selection and declaration of “National Heroes”:

- 10 a) Has made a significant and lasting contribution to the country;
- 11 b) Has enriched the lives of others;
- 12 c) Has contributed to the quality of life of the people;
- 13 d) Considered as outstanding in their area of activity; and
- 14 e) Whose biography inspired the country.

15 Sec. 6. All departments, bureaus, offices, agencies and instrumentalities of
16 the Government, including Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations, and
17 private institutions are hereby directed to extend the fullest support to the Council in
18 the performance of its duties.

19 Sec. 7. *Appropriation.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of
20 this Act shall be included in the budget of the NHCP in the General Appropriations
21 Act (GAA).

22 Sec. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Council shall issue the
23 necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within ninety
24 (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

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

28 Sec. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is
29 declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected
30 thereby shall remain in force and effect.

1 Sec. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
2 following the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a
3 newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,