



23 FEB 15 P1:59

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

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**SENATE**  
S.B. No. 1885

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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**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.

Thus, 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.

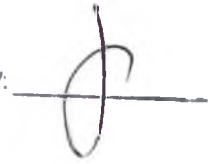
Therefore, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

**IMEE R. MARCOS**

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and 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."

3  
4           **SEC. 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* -It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
5 ensure that educational institutions shall inculcate patriotism, nationalism, and  
6 appreciation of the role of national heroes in the historical development of the country.  
7 The National Heroes of the Philippines whose great sacrifice and inedible legacy should  
8 be honored, as mandated by the Constitution, for the youth's inspiration and  
9 emulation.

10  
11           **SEC. 3.** *National Heroes Council.* - There is hereby created and established the  
12 National Heroes Council, hereinafter referred to as the "Council," which shall be under  
13 the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP). The Council shall have  
14 the duty to study, evaluate, recommend, select, and declare Filipino personages as  
15 "National Heroes," in recognition of their personal accomplishments and invaluable  
16 contribution to the nation and in accordance to the criteria provided in Sec. 5 of this  
17 Act.

18  
19           **SEC. 4.** *Composition.* - The Council shall be composed of the following:

- 20  
21           (a) Chairperson of the NHCP;  
22           (b) One (1) representative from the Department of Education (DepEd);  
23           (c) One (1) representative from the National Commission for Culture and the  
24           Arts (NCCA); and

1 (d) Two (2) members from the academe who specialize on Philippine History.

2  
3 *Provided that,* the NHCP Chairperson shall be considered as the  
4 Chairperson of the Council. Provided further that, the members mentioned  
5 in subparagraphs (a) to (c) shall be considered as ex officio members of the  
6 Council.

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

11 **SEC. 5. *Guidelines in the Selection of National Heroes.*** - The Council shall adopt  
12 the following guidelines for the selection and declaration of "National Heroes," as  
13 follows:

- 14  
15 (a) Has made a significant and lasting contribution to the country;  
16 (b) Has enriched the lives of others;  
17 (c) Has contributed to the quality of life of the people;  
18 (d) Considered as outstanding in their area of activity; and  
19 (e) Whose biography inspired the country.

20 **SEC. 6.** All departments, bureaus, offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the  
21 Government, including Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations, and private  
22 institutions are hereby directed to extend the fullest support to the Council in the  
23 performance of its duties.

24  
25 **SEC. 7. *Appropriation.*** - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of  
26 this Act shall be included in the budget of the NHCP in the General Appropriations Act  
27 (GAA).

28  
29 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Council shall issue the  
30 necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within ninety  
31 (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

32  
33 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** - If for any reason, any provision of this Act is  
34 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall  
35 remain in full force and effect.

36  
37 **SEC. 11. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
38 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

39 *Approved,*

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