

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-050

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**AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING EVERY SEPTEMBER 18 OF THE YEAR AS
LIBERATION DAY OF THE CITY OF NAGA , PRESCRIBING ACTIVITIES IN
COMMEMORATION THEREOF, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR:**

Author: Hon. Julian C. Lavadia, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

WHEREAS, based on the intensive researches undertaken by Bikol historian Dr. Danilo M. Genora and was written in his book, "From Epic to History: Brief Introduction to Bikol History". Particularly in Chapter 13, pages 127-130, wrote in part:

"September 18 was the feast day of the Our Lady of Peñafrancia and a large crowd gathered at the shrine to hear the morning mass . . . When the cathedral clock struck 12 midnight the first shot of revolt was fired. This continued until early in the morning. The rebels inflicted heavy casualties on the Spaniards. The Spaniards and some Filipino families numbering about 400 sought refuge in the San Francisco church apparently prepared to undertake their last defense.

"At about 2 p.m. of the day (September 19) the Spanish representatives met with the leaders of the rebels headed by Corporal Angeles (to discuss the terms of surrender).

"The successful revolt in Nueva Caceres which brought the proud Spanish government to its end signaled the end of Spanish rule in the whole region."

WHEREAS, again in his book, "NAGA: The Birth and rebirth of a City," particularly pages 90-92, Dr. Gerona again described the revolt as he did in his previous book.

WHEREAS, another prominent historian, Dr. Domingo Abella, in his book " The Bikol Annals" noted on page 196 that the Spaniards in Nueva Caceres:

" were caught in the whirlpool of native armed rebellion which burst as midnight, September 17th . Nucleus of the uprising was the native contingent of the Guardia Civil under the leadership of Corporals Elias Angeles and Felix Plazo. The insurgents were in complete control of the city streets of which were strewn with Spanish dead, combatants and non-combatants, men, women and children.

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"Before that day was half over, the last Spanish provincial governor of Ambos Camarines, Don Vicente Zaidin, who was among the beleaguered Spaniards at San Francisco church, had signed capitulation terms. Further resistance would have wiped out the Spaniards to the last man.

"On that day the Gold and Red of Castile came down and the Red, White and Blue of the Revolution went up for the first time (underscoring mine) at Nueva Caceres - even before the arrival of General Lukban."

WHEREAS, embedded at the wall of the main door of Colegio de Sta Isabel (now Universidad de Santa Isabel) is a historical plate which has this inscription, lifted from the transcript "Elias Angeles" by Jacinto A. Ursua, viz:

"On September 18, 1898, Governor Vicente Zaidin surrendered to Corporals Elias Angeles and Felix Plazo.

"On September 19, 1898 Governor Vicente Zaidin signed the papers of capitulation at the Colegio de Sta. Isabel. Thus, ended the Spanish rule in the Bicol Region.

"When General Vicente Lukban who was sent by General Emilio Aguinaldo to liberate the Bicol Region came, the Bikol Region had already been liberated by Corporals Elias Angeles and Felix Plazo."

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Naga, that:

SECTION 1. Title - This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as, "THE ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING LIBERATION DAY IN THE CITY OF NAGA".

SECTION 2. Basis of the Ordinance - This ordinance is hereby enacted pursuant to the intensive researches undertaken by noted Bikol Historian Dr. Danilo M. Genora and Dr. Domingo Abella.

SECTION 3. - Objectives for the Establishment and Designation of September 18 as "LIBERATION DAY" of the City of Naga - In consideration of the passages cited in the preamble of this Ordinance, September 18, which usually falls within the week of the Peñafrancia festivities in honor of the Our Lady of Peñafrancia, is hereby designated as Liberation Day of the City of Naga. Through the years the significance of September 18 for the City of Naga has been overshadowed by the activities and preparation for the Peñafrancia fiesta. This Ordinance has the following objectives as its raison d'etre:

- a. To instill in the heart and mind of Nagueños the historical importance of September 18 as the day when the first Spanish seat of power in Bikol was defeated and put to an end and after which native uprisings in other Bikol provinces followed, putting to flight their Spanish colonizers.
- b. To undertake activities on the day to ass color to the Peñafrancia activities and on other days of the year for the event to become a show window for local heroism;
- c. To inform and inspire the young that in Naga City that their life to enjoy it and that this desire for freedom has remained in the heart of Nagueños and has been become a regional heritage;
- d. To fill up the total silence that history books have about Naga during the last years of the 20th century as if Naga never existed since all that are mentioned in history books are about Manila and Metro Manila events and the heroes taught in schools are all Tagalog and Pampangueno and never was there a mention of Bikolano heroes;
- e. To enhance the regional and urban identify for Nagueños as a freedom-loving people;
- f. To make permanent the celebration of this memorable day in the City of Naga.

SECTION 4. To pursue the objectives as provided in Section 3 hereof, a committee under the Council for Culture and the Arts, which shall be known as the "Liberation Day Committee" is hereby formed to undertake the following functions:

- a. study the historical basis, significance of the September 18, 1898 event;

- b. formulate programs on a year to year basis, plan out activities, organize them and sustain them as an annual activity;
- c. enlist the participation of the schools within the city - private or public - in the said activities;
- d. undertake promotions and any other activities to promote and perpetuate the significance of September 18 in the City of Naga;

SECTION 5. Funding Requirement - The amount of FIFTY THOUSAND (P50,000.00) PESOS out of the appropriation for "Paurogon, Kulturang Bikolnon" under the Annual Budget is hereby set aside to defray the cost of commemorating said event.

SECTION 6. - Effectivity - This ordinance shall take effect upon its approval.

ENACTED: October 2, 2006.

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WE HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing ordinance.

GIL A. DE LA TORRE
Secretary to the
Sangguniang Panlungsod

GABRIEL H. BORDADO, JR.
City Vice Mayor &
Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

JESSE M. ROBREDO
City Mayor