

Republika ng Pilipinas
TANGGAPAN NG SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD
Lungsod Ng Bakolod
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CITY ORDINANCE NO. 320
DECEMBER 11, 2002

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING JANUARY 19 OF EACH YEAR AS THE GRACIANO LOPEZ-JAENA COMMEMORATIVE DAY OF BACOLOD CITY.

WHEREAS, Graciano Lopez Jaena, was the first Filipino to set out on the Propaganda Movement for his country's freedom;

WHEREAS, in Bacolod City, a public school and a major street are named after the only Iloggo National Hero;

WHEREAS, Graciano Lopez Jaena was born on December 18, 1856, in Jaro, Iloilo. And even in his youth, he started to write, and was vocal and open in criticizing the abuses of the Spaniards and in defending his own people;

WHEREAS, Lopez Jaena virtually launched his journalistic career here in Negros, at the sugar farm of his younger brother, Pedro, in Silay City, after fleeing Iloilo to avoid harassment and persecution by the Spanish authorities there;

WHEREAS, his first written work, at the age of 18, was a character sketch entitled Fray Botod (Big Bellied Friar) which caught the ire of the Spanish friars, that in the early part of 1880, he left for Spain, where he devoted sixteen years of his life to the making of his country, the Philippines, a better place to live in and seeing his people enjoy a life worthy of the children of God;

WHEREAS, Lopez Jaena founded the fourth nightly newspaper the "La Solidaridad" which became the official organ of the Filipinos in Spain seeking reforms in the Philippines. And as its first editor, and with the help of other Filipinos he collected and wrote many articles about the abuses of the Spaniards and their quest for liberation of the Filipinos from a foreign and tyrannical rule;

WHEREAS, Graciano Lopez Jaena was not only a gifted writer and a highly competent journalist, but in oratory, he excelled and towered above and over his compatriots, that even Jose Rizal, the greatest Filipino patriot and "Pride of the Malay Rice", assured Jose Alejandrino that Lopez Jaena was "the most talented Filipino he had ever known, even more superior to himself".

WHEREAS, Lopez Jaena was no excellent in oratory that he won the sobriquet as the "The Orator of the Propaganda Movement" and "The Demosthenes of the Philippines" and in the opinion of many historian and scholars, the greatest orator the Filipino nation has even produced;

WHEREAS, Graciano Lopez Jaena together with Jose P. Rizal and Marcelo H. del Pilar, were the three intellectual giants composing the great triumvirate of the Propaganda Movement which boldly raised the torch of truth over the abuses of the Spaniard colonization so that their countrymen may see their miserable and deplorable state and act to save and redeem their freedom from ignorance, bondage and oppression.

WHEREAS, Lopez Jaena continuously worked on La Solidaridad until his own resources started to ebb. Though he wanted to return to the Philippines he can no longer afford it. He died at the young age of 40, a poor man, and alone, in a Sister of Charity Hospital in Barcelona, Spain, on January 20, 1896, and was buried the following day in an unmarked grave at the Cemeterio de Sud-Oste in said Spanish city. His remains, todate, has never been found.

WHEREAS, the contribution of Graciano Lopez Jaena to the Philippine Revolution against Spain and to Philippine History could and should never be underrated. Therefore, there is a need to inform and inspire this generation of Bacoleños and the future ones to come, of his life, his thoughts, ideals and orations, his self-less devotion to and sacrifice for the liberation of the Filipino people;

WHEREAS, Bacolod City takes pride in Graciano Lopez Jaena, considering that he is the only declared Ilonggo national hero and whose descendants are now part of its constituency;

WHEREAS, a special day shall be set aside whereby the people of Bacolod can properly celebrate the life and ideals left behind by this great man and hero;

WHEREAS, since January 20 has already been declared as the Fiesta Day of Bacolod City in honor of its Patron Saint, St. Sebastian, the Sangguniang Panlungsod deems it proper to set the Commemorative Day for its only Ilonggo National Hero, Graciano Lopez Jaena, on January 19 of each year.

Be it ordained by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Bacolod, that:

SECTION 1 - THE GRACIANO LOPEZ JAENA COMMEMORATIVE DAY.

January 19 of each year is hereby declared and decreed as the GRACIANO LOPEZ JAENA COMMEMORATIVE DAY in Bacolod City.

This commemorative day shall serve as an occasion to further educate and inform the people of Bacolod City about Graciano Lopez Jaena, his life, his works, orations, his thoughts and ideals, his sacrifices, and love of God and country, in order to instill in Bacoleños a strong sense of patriotism and pride, as well as to give justice by restoring Graciano Lopez Jaena in his proper niche in Philippine History.

SECTION 2 - COMMEMORATIVE RITES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

The City of Bacolod, thru the City Mayor, and in coordination and cooperation with the Department of Education and other pertinent government agencies and non-government organizations shall undertake commemorative rites and educational, informational and other relevant activities to further the purposes of this Ordinance.

Towards this end, the City of Bacolod may appropriate, upon the request of the City Mayor and approval of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, such amounts as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the preceding paragraph.

SECTION 3 - EFFECTIVITY.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon approval thereof.

CARRIED BY THE VOTE OF:

Affirmative:

Councilors: Archie S. Baribar, Roberto M. Rojas, Jude Thaddeus A. Sayson, Ana Marie V. Palermo, Jose H. Gabuat, Lyndon P. Cafia, Elmer T. Sy, Bobbie M. Lucasan, Greg G. Gasataya, Reynold I. Iledan, Sonya M. Verdeflor, Arturo V. Parreño, Marx Louie S. De La Rosa.

Negative : N o n e.

Author : Councilor Ana Marie V. Palermo.

Passed : December 11, 2002 (76th Special/Regular Session).

Comments: Passed.
Councilor Celia Matea R. Flor was out of the session hall when this ordinance was passed.

RAMIRO L. GARCIA, JR.

Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer *12/17/02*

ATTESTED:

ATTY. NILO T. ALEJANDRINO
Secretary to the Sanggunian

APPROVED: December 11, 2002

LUZVIMINDA S. VALDEZ
City Mayor

NTA:HPL:itm

