

# **Proclamation of the Philippines Independence**

# PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE



Proclamation of Philippine Independence in Kawit, Cavite on June 12, 1898.



Portrait of a man in a white shirt, likely a key figure in Philippine history.

Every year the country commemorates the anniversary of the Philippines Independence proclaimed on 12 June 1898, in the province of Cavite. Indeed, such event is a significant turning point in the history of the country because it signaled the end of the 333 years of Spanish colonization.



## **Spanish Colonization (1521-1898)**

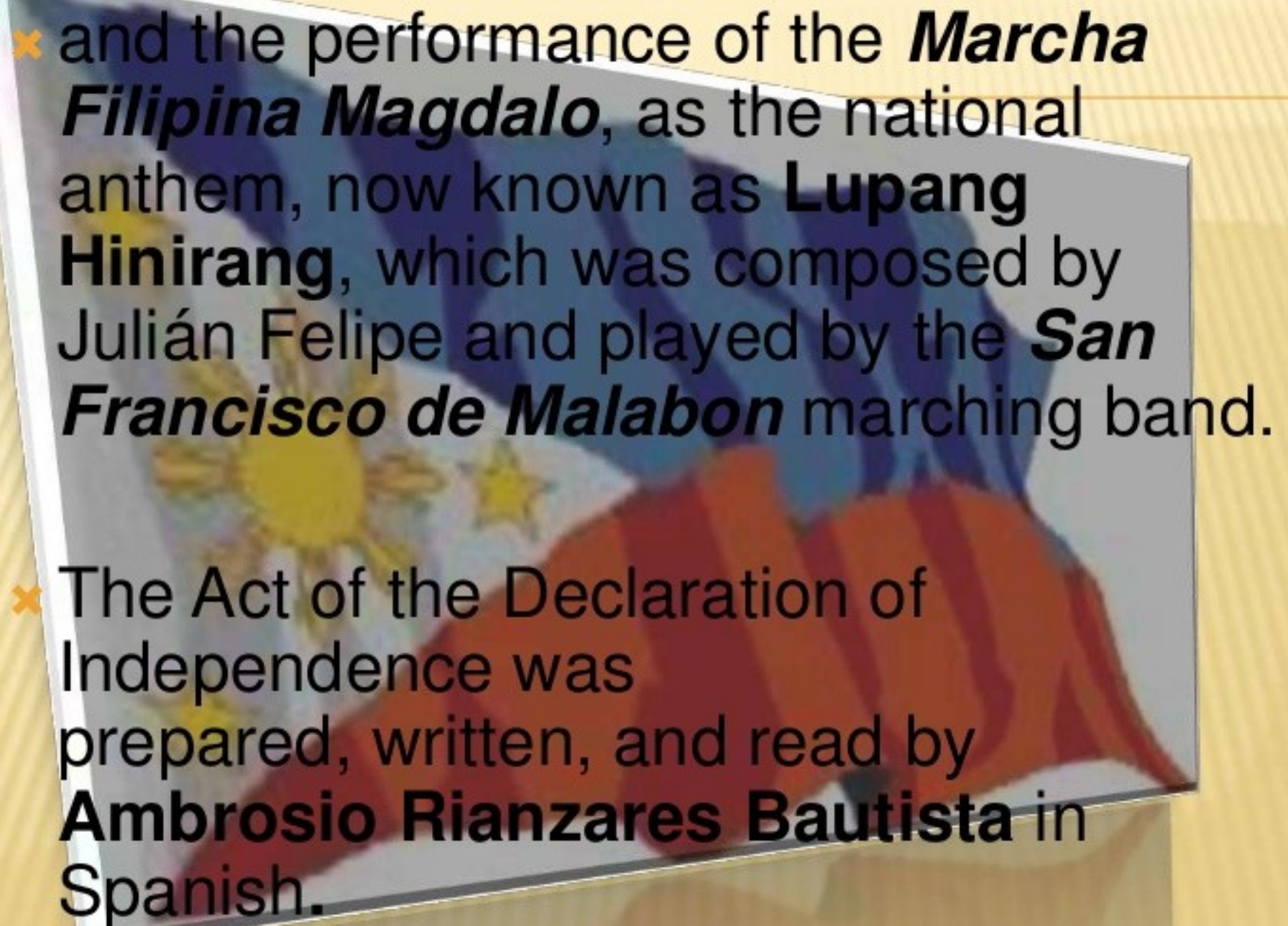


✘ **June 12, 1898 - The Philippine Declaration of independence** was proclaimed in **Cavite el Viejo** (present-day **Kawit, Cavite**)

✘ Filipino revolutionary forces under General Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed the sovereignty and independence of the Philippine Islands from the colonial rule of Spain.

• On June 12, between four and five in the afternoon, Aguinaldo, in the presence of a huge crowd, proclaimed the independence of the Philippines at Cavite el Viejo (Kawit). For the first time, the Philippine National Flag, made in Hongkong by Mrs. Marcela Agoncillo, assisted by Lorenza Agoncillo and Delfina Herboza, was officially hoisted and the Philippine National March played in public.

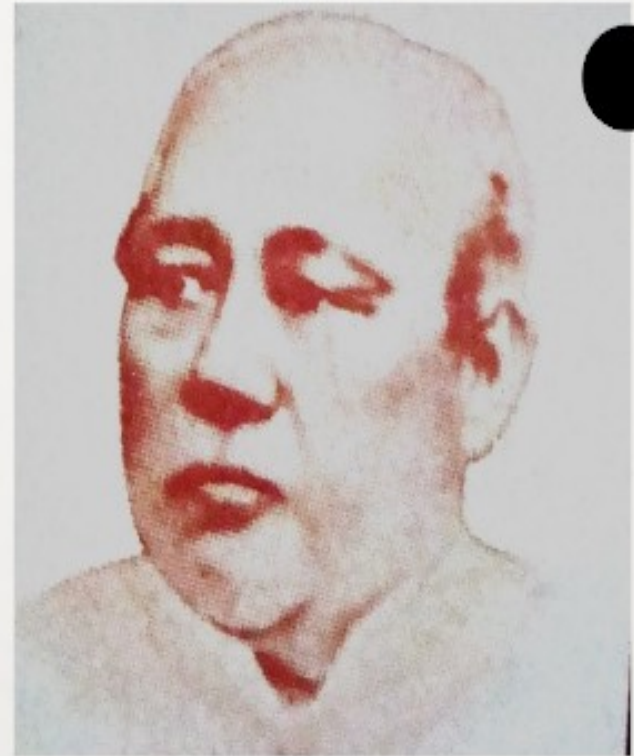
The [Act of the Declaration of Independence](#) was prepared by Ambrosio Rianzares Bautista, who also read it. A passage in the Declaration reminds one of another passage in the American Declaration of Independence. The Philippine Declaration was signed by ninety-eight persons, among them an American army officer who witnessed the proclamation. The proclamation of Philippine independence was, however, promulgated on August 1 when many towns has already been organized under the rules laid down by the Dictatorial Government.

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- ✦ and the performance of the ***Marcha Filipina Magdalo***, as the national anthem, now known as **Lupang Hinirang**, which was composed by Julián Felipe and played by the ***San Francisco de Malabon*** marching band.
  - ✦ The Act of the Declaration of Independence was prepared, written, and read by **Ambrosio Rianzares Bautista** in Spanish.

## Ambrosio Rianzares Bautista

*(December 7, 1830 – December 4, 1903)*

- Distant relative of the Rizal family
- War counselor and special delegate
- Was popular among peasants as “Don Bosyong” and laborers
- He died of a fatal fall from a horse-drawn carriage at the age of 72



When he wrote the Act of Declaration of Philippine Independence, he patterned the act on the American declaration of Independence



*Agoncillo, Marcela  
(1860-1946)*



*Marcela Agoncillo was known as  
"Maker of the Philippine Flag"*

- She was one of the three women who made (hand-woven) the first, original Philippine flag. The other two were her eldest daughter, five-year-old Lorenza, and Mrs. Delfina Herbosa de Natividad, Jose Rizal's niece by his sister Lucia,*



## JULIAN FELIPE



Kilala si **Julian Felipe** sa kanyang tugtugin o komposisyonang "Himno Nacional Filipino." Ipinalikha sa kanya ni Heneral Emilio Aguinaldo ang makabayang musikang ito para sa kalayaan ng bansa. Unang ipinarinig ang tugtuging ito noong Hunyo 12, 1898 sa Kawit, Cavite. Iyan ang pinagbatayan ng kasalukuyang pambansang awit.

- The declaration was a short 2,000-word document, which summarized the reason behind the revolution against Spain, the war for independence, and the future of the new republic under Emilio Aguinaldo.

“...taking into consideration, that their inhabitants being already weary of bearing the ominous yoke of Spanish domination, on account of the arbitrary arrest and harsh treatment practiced by the Civil Guard to the extent of causing death with the connivance and even withy the express orders of their commanders, who sometimes went to the extreme of ordering the shooting of prisoners under the pretext that they were attempting to escape, in violation of the provisions of the Regulations of their Corps, which abuses were unpunished and on account of the unjust deportations, especially those decreed by General Blanco, of eminent personages and of high social position, at the instigation of the Archbishop and friars interested in keeping them out of the way for their own selfish and avaricious purpose, deportations which are quickly brought about by a method of procedure more execrable than that of the Inquisition and which every civilized nation rejects on account of a decision being rendered without a hearing of the persons accused.”

The passage demonstrates the justification behind the revolution against Spain. Specifically cited the abuse by the Civil Guards and the unlawful shooting of prisoners whom they alleged as attempting to escape. The passage also condemns the unequal protection of the law between the Filipino people and the “eminent personages”. Moreover, the line mentions the avarice and greed of the clergy like the friars and the Archbishop himself.

# HOW DID IT START?

- The revolution started when Filipinos had enough of the violent Spanish rule
- For the Katipuneros, the revolution serves as the start to claim back the freedom of the Filipino people that was taken by the first Governor – Miguel Lopez de Legazpi
- The leadership of the revolution was given to General Emilio Aguinaldo in 1897 after Andres Bonifacio was allegedly accused of sedition.

# WHAT HAPPENED?

- On the 15th of December 1897, the Philippine Revolutionary army and the Spanish government made a truce known as the “Pact of Biak-na-Bato”
- The Pact of Biak-na-Bato was a failed truce between the Revolutionary army and the Spanish government
- While in Hongkong, the leaders of the Revolutionary army alongside with General Emilio Aguinaldo used the money they received from the Spanish government to buy new weapons while the Spanish government did not commit in making the necessary reforms.

## AND THEN?

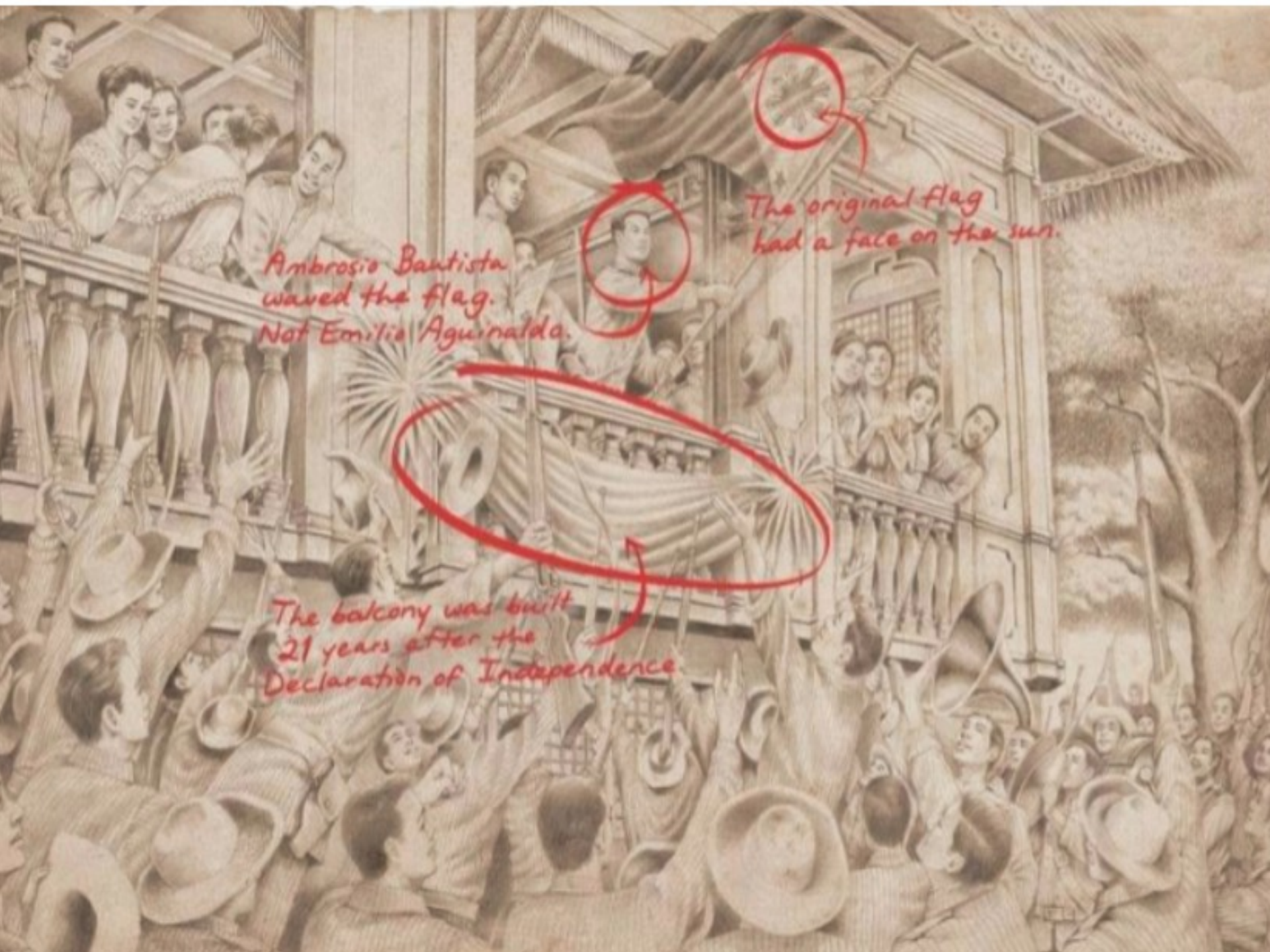
- General Emilio Aguinaldo returned to the Philippines and with the help of the U.S Navy led by U.S Navy commodore George Dewey
- They defeated the Spanish fleet in the Battle of Manila Bay that took place on the 1st of May 1898.
- Although successful in defeating the Spaniards, General Emilio Aguinaldo and the rest of the Philippine revolutionary army faces a new enemy, the United States as they saw the Philippines as a prize for defeating the Spaniards.

After suffering from the Spanish government and friars' mistreatment and the sacrifices and loss of brave countrymen like Dr. Jose Rizal and the three Filipino priests known as the Gomburza, the revolutionaries sought to reclaim their country for their people.

## *Aguinaldo Mansion in Kawit, Cavite in 1914*



- Site of the historic Proclamation of Philippine Independence on June 12, 1898
- Declared a national shrine in June 1964
- It wasn't Aguinaldo who waved the Philippine flag from the central window; **Ambrosio Rianzares Bautista** did.
- Here, he declared the independence of the Filipinos and the birth of the **Philippine Republic** "under the protection of the mighty and humane North American Union."



Ambrosio Bautista  
waved the flag.  
Not Emilio Aguinaldo.

The original flag  
had a face on the sun.

The balcony was built  
21 years after the  
Declaration of Independence



**Execution of GOMBURZA**

### III. DESCRIPTION OF THE SYMBOLS OF THE PHILIPPINE FLAG (PAR 12)



The flag design was decided by Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo during his exile in Hong Kong.  
Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo recruited Mrs. Marcela Mariano de Aguinaldo, a member of the First Triumvirate of the Katipunan (Katapunan), because of her sewing skills.  
Mrs. Aguinaldo, together with her daughter, Lorenza, and Mrs. Dolores Hernandez de Nacional, sewed the flag and one of Gen. Aguinaldo's comrades made the flag in 122 Panatag 100, Hong Kong.

*Philippine Flag, 1898-1901*

- **White triangle** symbolizes the distinctive emblem of the Katipunan
- **3 stars** symbolize the main islands of the archipelago: Luzon, Mindanao and Panay
- **Sun** symbolizes the steps of our countrymen to progress and civilization
- **8 rays** symbolize the 8 provinces active in the revolution since the first revolt: Manila, Cavite, Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Bataan, Laguna and Batangas.
- **The colors red, blue and white** symbolize the commemoration of the flag of the U.S. and as a sign of gratitude to them.

- The white triangle represents the distinctive emblem of the famous Katipunan Society, which by means of its compact of blood urged on the masses of the people insurrection.
- Three stars represent the three principal Islands of this Archipelago, Luzon, Mindanao and Visayas, in which this insurrectionary movement broke out.
- The sun represents the gigantic strides that have been made by the sons of this land on the road of progress and civilization, its eight rays symbolizing the eight provinces of Manila, Cavite, Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Bataan, Laguna and Batangas, which were declared in a state of war almost as soon as the first insurrectionary movement was initiated
- The colors blue, red and white commemorate those of the flag of the United States of North America, in manifestation of our profound gratitude towards that Great Nation for the disinterested protection she is extending to us and will continue to extend to us.

- The flag's design was decided by **Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo** during his exile in Hong Kong
  - Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo requested **Mrs. Marcela Marino de Agoncillo**, the wife of the first Filipino diplomat (Don Felipe Agoncillo), because of her sewing skills
- **Mrs. Agoncillo, together with her daughter, Lorenza, and Mrs. Delfina Herbosa de Natividad** (niece of Dr. Jose Rizal and wife of General Salvador Natividad), made the flag in 535 Morrison Hill, Hong Kong

The Treaty of Paris was an agreement signed between Spain and the United States of America regarding the ownership of the Philippine Islands and other Spanish colonies in South America. The agreement ended the short-lived Spanish-American War. The Treaty was signed on 10 December 1898, six months after the revolutionary government declared the Philippine Independence. The Philippines was sold to the United States at \$20 million and effectively undermined the sovereignty of the Filipinos after their revolutionary victory. The Americans occupied the Philippine immediately which resulted in the Philippine-American War that lasted until the earliest years of the twentieth century.

**THANK YOU!**