

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 6696**



---

Introduced by: Hon. Shirley L. Bañas-Nogales

---

**AN ACT**  
**DECLARING FEBRUARY 27 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING**  
**HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF GENERAL SANTOS TO BE KNOWN AS "THE**  
**FOUNDATION DAY OF THE CITY OF GENERAL SANTOS"**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The story of the City of General Santos began with the arrival of the sea vessel S/S Basilan on the shores of Sarangani Bay, at the beaches of the Municipal District of Buayan, on February 27, 1939.

Aboard the steamship was the former commanding general of the Philippine Army, and appointed general manager of the National Land Settlement Administration (NLSA), Major General Paulino Torres Santos Sr., and the first batch of employees of NLSA who were all tasked by President Manuel L. Quezon, by virtue of Commonwealth Act No. 441, to cultivate the lands of this part of Southern Mindanao and develop them for human settlement.

Today we see the fruit of the decades of perseverance of General Paulino Santos, the NLSA staff, the locales and migrants, and the culturally-diverse generations after them: a highly-urbanized City of General Santos, a city population of 594,446 people, and a PhP 2.4 billion total revenue for 2018.

The values of discipline and hard work of General Paulino Santos were indeed passed down from generation to generation and continue to inspire people today. His vision elaborated perfectly in his January 15, 1937 speech:

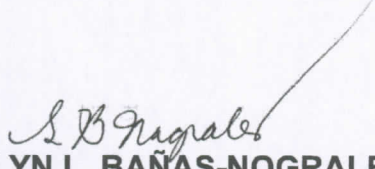
*"...remember that this land is the land of opportunity for men willing to dedicate both mind and body to a life's work."*

Every February 27, the City of General Santos celebrates both its foundation day anniversary and *Kalilangan Festival*, a celebration of the city's growth and triumphs, and the peaceful coexistence between the city's tri-people: Christian settlers, Muslim Filipinos, and Indigenous Peoples. On this same day annually, the city conducts a reenactment of the arrival of General Paulino Santos and the Pioneer-Settlers, and their accord with the Indigenous Peoples to nurture the land for the benefit of all.

This proposal to declare February 27 a special nonworking holiday in the City of General Santos shares the same objective with the said annual reenactment: to

commemorate the day that begun the land's transformation, to reflect on the labors of General Paulino Santos, the Pioneer-Settlers, and the locales, to celebrate the decades of gains that the community has had, and to cherish per annum the values of perseverance and hard work.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
**SHIRLYN L. BAÑAS-NOGRALES**  
1<sup>st</sup> District, South Cotabato

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO.** 6696

---

Introduced by: Hon. Shirley L. Bañas-Nogales

---

**AN ACT**

**DECLARING FEBRUARY 27 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING  
HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF GENERAL SANTOS TO BE KNOWN AS "THE  
FOUNDATION DAY OF THE CITY OF GENERAL SANTOS"**

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

SECTION 1. In commemoration of the arrival of General Paulino Torres Santos Sr. and the first batch of Pioneer-Settlers or the personnel of the National Land Settlement Administration (NLSA), on the shores of Sarangani Bay, at the Municipal District of Buayan colloquially known as *Dadiangas*, on February 27, 1939, this Act declares that February 27 of every year be the Foundation Day of the City of General Santos, a special nonworking holiday in the City of General Santos.

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*