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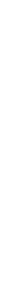
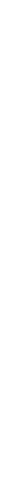


**Republic Act No. 1425,  
known as the Rizal Law,  
mandates all educational  
institutions in the  
Philippines to offer courses  
about José Rizal.**



**The full name of the law is An Act to Include in the Curricula of All Public and Private Schools, Colleges and Universities Courses On the Life, Works and Writings of Jose Rizal, Particularly His Novels , Authorizing the Printing and Distribution Thereof, and for Other Purposes.**

**The measure was strongly  
opposed by the Roman Catholic  
Church in the Philippines due  
to the anti-clerical themes  
in Noli Me Tángere and El  
Filibusterismo**



### The Highlights of the History

- A. Senator Claro M. Recto was the main proponent of the Rizal Bill.
- B. The Bill was opposed by the Catholic Church charging Recto as a communist and anti-catholic in 1955.
- C. The Reason behind the opposition:
  - *Violation of Freedom of Conscience.*
  - *Desecration of Religion.*
  - *Endanger of Catholic's Salvation.*

# The Highlights of the History

## Organized Groups Opposing the Bill

- 1. Catholic Action of the Philippines.*
- 2. Congregation of the Mission.*
- 3. Knights of Columbus & Catholic Teachers Guild.*
- 4. Francisco Soc Rodrigo & Mariano Jesús Cuenco*

### The Highlights of the History

#### Proponents of the Bill

- 1. Veteranos de la Revolucion (Spirit of 1896).*
- 2. Alagad in Rizal and The Freemasons.*
- 3. Knights of Rizal.*
- 4. José P. Laurel and Claro M. Recto*

### The Highlights of the History

- The Archbishop of Manila, **RUFINO SANTOS**, protested in a pastoral letter that Catholic students would be affected if the compulsory reading of the unexpurgated version were pushed through.
- **ARSENIO LACSON, MANILA'S MAYOR**, who supported the bill, walked out of Mass when the priest read a circular from the archbishop denouncing the bill.



### The Highlights of the History

#### ACCUSATION TO RIZAL BY CUENCO:

- *“Rizal attacked dogmas, beliefs and practices of the Church.*
- *Castigating undeserving priests and refrained from criticizing, ridiculing or putting in doubt dogmas of the Catholic Church, is absolutely gratuitous and misleading.*
- *Denial of the existence of purgatory, as it was not found in the Bible, and that Moses and Jesus Christ did not mention its existence.*

### The Highlights of the History

1. Outside the Senate, the Catholic schools threatened to close down if the bill was passed; Recto countered that if that happened, the schools would be nationalized.
2. Recto did not believe the threat, stating that the schools were too profitable to be closed. The schools gave up the threat, but threatened to "punish" legislators in favor of the law in future elections.

### The Highlights of the History



Taken from Claro M. Recto:

"The people who would eliminate the books of Rizal from the schools would blot out from our minds the memory of the national hero. This is not a fight against Recto but a fight against Rizal", adding that since Rizal is dead, they are attempting to suppress his memory.

### The Highlights of the History



- On May 12, 1956, a compromise inserted by Committee on Education chairman Laurel that accommodated the objections of the Catholic Church was approved unanimously.
- The bill specified that only college (university) students would have the option of reading unexpurgated versions of clerically-contested reading material, such as *Noli Me Tángere* and *El Filibusterismo*.
- The bill was enacted on **June 12, 1956**.

### The Provisions of RA 1425 Rizal Law - Section 1

Courses on the life, works and writings of Jose Rizal, particularly his novels Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo, shall be included in the curricula of all schools, colleges and universities, public or private; Provided, That in the collegiate courses, the **original** or **unexpurgated** editions of the Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo or their English translations shall be used as basic texts.

**The  
Provisions of  
RA 1425  
Rizal Law -  
Section 2**

It shall be obligatory for all schools, colleges, and universities to keep an adequate number of copies of the original and expurgated editions of the Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo and Rizal's other works and biography in their libraries.

**The  
Provisions of  
RA 1425  
Rizal Law -  
Section 3**

**The Board of National Education shall**

- Cause them to be printed in cheap, popular editions;
- Cause them to be distributed, free of charge, to persons desiring to read them, through the Purok organizations and the Barrio Councils throughout the country.

### Significance of the Law

- It showed nationalism among Filipinos, the proponents ponder about other forms of nationalism that can be used to encourage and can also serve as guidance today's youth. (National Anthem)
- To understand the history of Filipino culture and how the country turned out to be what it is now as a source of nationalism. (Museums & Exhibits)



### Significance of the Law

- In reference to the Filipino history books, Filipino myths and legends and fables can also be considered a possible way of showing nationalism towards the youth. They give the opportunity to visualize the past and create an image of Filipino pride.

### Significance of the Law

- The Rizal's work especially his novels showed a part of history that people can reflect back into. It has once changed society in the past and the proponents believe that it could still have a similar impact now because Filipino traits and culture were evidently seen in those works.

