

= Sandugo =

The Sandugo was a blood compact , performed in the island of Bohol in the Philippines , between the Spanish explorer Miguel López de Legazpi and Datu Sikatuna the chieftain of Bohol on March 16 , 1565 , to seal their friendship as part of the tribal tradition . This is considered as the first treaty of friendship between the Spaniards and Filipinos . " Sandugo " is a Visayan word which means " one blood " .

The Sandugo is depicted in both the provincial flag and the official seal of the government in Bohol . It also features the image of the blood compact . The top of the seal explains the history behind the Sandugo event that occurred in Bohol , the fleet and the location where the Spaniards anchored and the place where the treaty was conducted which was dated on March 16 , 1565 .

= = History = =

In 1521 , Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan became the first person from Europe to reach Asia by sailing west , a voyage of which he would meet an untimely death in the island of the Philippines . Spain sent expeditions to colonize the East Indies in their competition with Portugal to seize control over the spice trade . However , all of these expeditions failed . It was not until Miguel López de Legazpi , sailing from Mexico with five ships and five hundred men , reached the Philippines in 1565 and a Spanish settlement was established . López de Legazpi was greeted by hostile Muslim tribes opposing a foreign invasion . His attempt to land on the island of Cebu resulted in the death of one of his soldiers prompting him to explore another island and seek trade with various tribes .

Sailing south toward the island of Mindanao , López de Legazpi 's fleet encountered highwinds forcing them to sail northward to the island of Bohol . There , he captured a vessel from Borneo whose Malay sailors informed the Spaniards that the natives inhabiting the region traded with people from Borneo and Indonesia . Arriving in Bohol , López de Legazpi noticed the hostility of the people . The Malayan servant explained that such hostility was due to the expeditions conducted by the Portuguese from the Moluccas islands . In 1563 , Portuguese fleets arrived in Visayan waters and enslaved about 1 @, @ 000 inhabitants . López de Legazpi , with the help of the Malayan sailor , explained to the tribes in Bohol that they were not Portuguese and that they had come to the islands to trade . Upon learning this , the chieftains and their tribes became friendlier and welcoming to the Spaniards .

= = Ceremony = =

The Sandugo began with the arrival of Miguel López de Legazpi in Bohol in 1565 and the establishment of allegiance by Datu Sikatuna to the king of Spain . They made a cut on their left arm with a dagger and poured their blood into a cup filled with wine , which they both drank in honour of their friendship . The inscription at a monument in Tagbilaran City describes the event :

It added that the compact was performed as part of the tribal tradition .

In his report to Philip II , López de Legazpi wrote :

= = Tradition = =

By performing a blood compact , it preserves the bond of friendship between two tribes . This ceremony was the first treaty of friendship between the natives , and the Spaniards . In honor of this ceremony , the former President of the Philippines Elpidio Quirino established the Order of Sikatuna , a presidential decoration conferred upon politicians . Juan Luna , a Filipino painter , depicted this event in his painting entitled The Blood Compact (Spanish : El Pacto de Sangre) in 1883 . El Pacto de Sangre obtained the first prize in Paris in 1885 and at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of St. Louis in 1904 . At that period , it was an important part for tribes to perform the sandugo as part of the peace process . A monument was constructed in Tagbilaran City by the Philippine Historical

Committee and the National Historical Institute .

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