

Republic of the Philippines

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

DILG-NAPOLCOM Center, EDSA corner Quezon Avenue, West Triangle, Quezon City

<http://www.dilg.gov.ph>



## **118th ANNIVERSARY OF THE HISTORIC SIEGE OF BALER AND THE 15<sup>TH</sup> PHILIPPINE-SPANISH FRIENDSHIP DAY**

Memorandum Circular No. 2017-82

June 23, 2017

### **1.0 Background**

The Siege of Baler was a battle of the Philippine Revolution and concurrently the Spanish–American War and the Philippine–American War. Filipino revolutionaries laid siege to a fortified church manned by colonial Spanish troops in the town of Baler, Philippines for 11 months, or 337 days.

Philippine–Spanish Friendship Day celebrates the strong links between the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Spain every June 30. It commemorates the day when General Emilio Aguinaldo, president of the First Philippine Republic, issued a decree requiring the last Spanish soldiers who had been besieged for almost a year inside Baler's church be treated not as enemies and prisoners of war, but as friends. It also ordered that they receive the necessary permission for their return to Spain.

### **2.0 Purpose**

The purpose of the Circular is to support the celebration of the 118<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Historic Siege of Baler and the 15<sup>th</sup> Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day.

### **3.0 Scope/Coverage**

All Provincial Governors, City and Municipal Mayors, DILG Regional Directors, ARMM Regional Governor, and all others concerned.

### **4.0 Policy Content and Guidelines**

- 4.1 In commemoration of the 118th Anniversary of the Historic Siege of Baler and the 15th Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day, all Local Chief Executives (LCEs) are hereby enjoined to conduct simple but meaningful activities such as flag-raising rites, display of Philippine flag in LGU offices, civic parade and the like, within their respective localities.
- 4.2 Local Chief Executives of various LGUs of Aurora are likewise enjoined to participate in the commemorative program on June 30, 2017 in Baler, Aurora at 8:00 o'clock in the morning.
- 4.3 All DILG Regional Directors and the ARMM Regional Governor are hereby directed to cause the widest dissemination of this Circular to all local government units within their respective jurisdiction.

## 5.0 References

Letter from Acting Executive Director Ludovico D. Badoy, National Historical Commission of the Philippines.

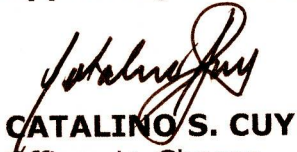
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippine%E2%80%93Spanish\\_Friendship\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippine%E2%80%93Spanish_Friendship_Day)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege\\_of\\_Baler](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Baler)

## 6.0 Effectivity

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.

## 7.0 Approving Authority

  
**CATALINO S. CUY**  
Officer-in-Charge

## 8.0 Feedback

For related queries, kindly contact the National Historical Commission of the Philippines at Tel Nos. (02) 254-7482 or at thru their website: [www.nhcp.gov.ph](http://www.nhcp.gov.ph) or thru their email: [records@nhcp.gov.ph](mailto:records@nhcp.gov.ph)