



**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL
DARWIN, NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA**

Message



As part of tradition, FAANT celebrates the 116th Commemorative Anniversary of Philippine Independence in June 2014. This is a great occasion for all Filipinos in the NT and elsewhere in Australia and around the world, as in our mother country, in remembering the struggle of our forebears for the independence Filipino people. This is also a time for us to reflect on our freedom and how it means to us in our daily lives and those of our family, children and grandchildren.

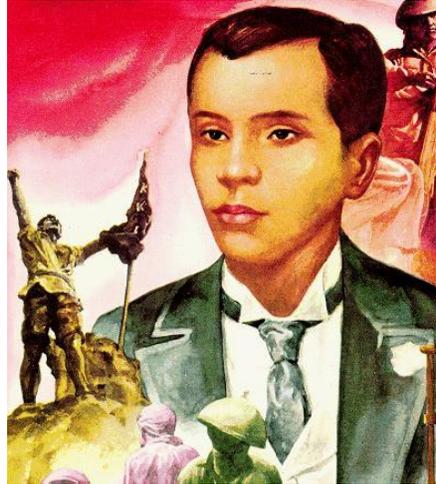
This year also marks the 150th year of commemorative birth anniversary of the life and work of Philippine national hero, Andres Bonifacio and this is one theme adopted by Filipino communities in Australia for their 116th Commemorative Anniversary of Philippine Independence. Andres Bonifacio played a vital role in our independence from foreign dominion leading to the Philippine Independence on 12 June 1898 celebrated for the first time in Kawit, Cavite.

Congratulations to the Executive Committee of FAANT in organizing the 116th Commemorative Celebration of Philippine Independence! Congratulations also for recognizing the work of Filipino seniors in Darwin as part of the Association's project this year.

JOHN RIVAS
Philippine Honorary Consul General, NT

~~~~~  
22 Mirrakma Crescent, Lyons, NT, 0810      PO Box 42457 Casuarina, NT, 0811  
Telephone: (08) 89273926      Mobile: 041 708 1546      Email: [philcon.nt@gmail.com](mailto:philcon.nt@gmail.com)

## Life and Work of Andres de Castro Bonifacio



***Andres Bonifacio (1863-1897), Father of Philippine Revolution.***

[Source of Photo: [www.bakbakan.com.heroes.html](http://www.bakbakan.com.heroes.html)]

Andres Bonifacio is known in the Philippines as the Great Plebeian. He was born to a poor family in Tondo, Manila, on 30 November 1863. His parents were Santiago Bonifacio and Catalina de Castro.

Although not well-schooled (he reached only primary school), he was literate and fluent to read and write in Spanish. He admired Jose Rizal, whose works on *Noli Mi Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo* inspired him and developed a strong sense of nationalism. He organized a secret society and revolutionary group, *Katipunan*, in 1892 when Rizal was arrested and deported to Dapitan. Shortly after, Bonifacio became the *Supremo* (head) of the *Katipunan*. Unlike those in the middle class, Bonifacio and his circle of plebeians did not seek reforms from the Spanish government. Their aim was to liberate the native Filipinos from tyranny and procure their independence. The *Katipunan* became the core of the revolutionary army under Emilio Aguinaldo whose election as President of the Philippine Revolutionary Government cost Bonifacio's downfall. After being tried by the council of war on charges of treason, General Lazaro Makapagal led a group of soldiers who executed Bonifacio and his brother Procopio on May 10, 1897.

### **Bonifacio as National Hero**

On March 17, 1918 Bonifacio's remains were found and placed in an urn and put into the care of the National Library of the Philippines. When Emilio Aguinaldo ran for President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, Manuel Quezon (his opponent and eventual victor) invoked the memory of Bonifacio against him. Some historians such as Milagros Guerrero, Emmanuel Encarnacion, and Ramon Villegas have pushed for the recognition of Bonifacio as the first president of the Philippines instead of Aguinaldo, the officially recognized one. This view is based on his position of president/supremo of the *Katipunan* revolutionary government from 1896-97. This view also emphasizes that Bonifacio established a government through the *Katipunan* before a government headed by Aguinaldo was formed at the Tejeros Convention. Bonifacio's birthday on November 30 is celebrated as Bonifacio Day and is a public holiday in the Philippines. There are many monuments honoring Bonifacio in the country. The two most famous can be found at Diliman campus of the University of the Philippines and at Caloocan. Bonifacio is also depicted in the 10 peso note and 10 peso coin in Philippine currency.