

June 12, 1962 INDEPENDENCE DAY - PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL TAKING OATH

THE PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL STAMPS

The commemorative stamps depicting the oath-taking of President Diosdado Macapagal, issued by the Bureau of Posts today, June 12, 1962, is of double significance.

First, it honors the Fifth President of the Republic of the Philippines; and second, it marks, for the first time in history, the celebration of the new Independence Day which was officially reset from the Luneta of July 4, 1946 to the Kawit of the Revolution of June 12, 1898.

The stamps, designed by Philatelic Artist Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr., shows Pres. Macapagal wearing the native barong Filipino as he takes his oath of office at the Inaugural Grandstand on December 30, 1961. They are 25x40mm, horizontally composed, printed by heliogravure process by the Toppan Printing Co., Ltd., of Tokyo, Japan, in sheets of 50 and in three denominations and colors.

June 12, 1962 was chosen for the first day of sale in order to impress upon the people what Pres. Macapagal termed as "the legitimate assertion by the Pilipino nation of its natural and inalienable claim to freedom and independence, which is an inherent right of every people not dependent upon the will and discretion of another".

It fell upon the shoulders of the Fifth President of the Republic of the Philippines of Filipinize the nation's birthday of its freedom. Born on September 28, 1910, in the barrio San Nicolas Ist, Lubao, Pampanga, Pres. Diosdado Macapagal grew up "amid abject poverty in a barrio where he helped his grandfather, a tenant, pasture carabaos all day."

His mother, Ramona Pañgan and maternal grandparents were peasants (share tenants) from Gutad, Floridablanca, Pampanga. His paternal ascendants were "plebian Intellectuals", his father Urbano Macapagal of Lucbao, being a jobless vernacular playwright, his grandfather a Catholic church music composer, and grandmother, a Catholic catechism teacher.

Through persistent struggle and self-denial, he supported himself in his acquisition of an education. He won scholarly distinction and gold medals for excellence in oratory and debating. He holds the degrees of Associate in Arts (UP-1933), Bachelor of Laws (UST-1936), Master of Laws (UST-1941 and two doctorate degrees .. Dr. of Laws from the UST (1947) and Dr. of Philosophy in Economics from the same university (1957).

He begun his public career as a Clerk in the Bureau of Lands in 1930; became a legal assistant in Malacañang in 1941; held positions in the Department of Foreign Affairs; was elected Congressman, first district, Pampanga in 1949, re-elected congressman in 1953, voted the best solon in the Third Congress in 1954-57, elected Vice-President of the Philippines 1957-61 and finally elected President of the Philippines in 1961.



His incorruptible integrity and abiding concern for the common people are two outstanding qualities which endeared him to the late Pres. Magsaysay who told a delegation in Malacañang in January 1954: "I like Dadong because he is honest and a man of the masses". In the 1961 Presidential campaign, the late Mayor Arsenio H. Lacson supported him saying "Macapagal is an incorruptible honest official".

Barely five months after he stood at the helm of the nation, he corrected the inconsistency of celebrating July 4 as Independence Day, in his most popular and historic proclamation "That the establishment of the Philippine Republic by the Revolutionary Government under General Emilio Aguinaldo on June 12, 1898 marked our people's declaration and exercise of their right to self-determination, liberty and independence."

The Pres. Macapagal oath-taking stamps are most fittingly dedicated to the importance of the first celebration of June 12 as Philippine Independence Day.