

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE
P. S. Res. No. 1601

Introduced By SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS (NCCA) AND OTHER RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO ENSURE THE CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE ANTIQUE RICE TERRACES OF THE IRAYNON-BUKIDNON AS AN IMPORTANT CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR THE SAKE OF CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF FILIPINOS

WHEREAS, a cluster of rice terraces in the mountains of San Remigio town in Antique, preserved by the Iraynon-Bukidnon, an indigenous group residing in Barangay General Fullon was recently made known to the public;

WHEREAS, the 600-hectare terraced landscape is surrounded by Mt. Iglangit, Mt. Igpayas and Mt. Igbangto, and is a pristine valley that sits in the middle of two waterfalls (Iglangit and Igtamoni), that bring water supply to the "taramanan" (rice field), and where the Sibalom River runs through so that the area is abundant in fish and shrimps as well as rare birds, wild bears and fauna;

WHEREAS, the preservation of the 200-year old Antique rice terraces is attributed to the Iraynon-Bukidnon families who are assigned as stewards of the parcels of land where they apply their indigenous agricultural knowledge and practices, passed on through several generations;

WHEREAS, the Iraynon-Bukidnon have a rich cultural heritage and tradition best exemplified in their unique knowledge of nature;

WHEREAS, this renewed public attention on the existence of these rice terraces may endanger the integrity of the site and way of living of its indigenous peoples;

WHEREAS, these rice terraces being part of our cultural heritage deserve recognition as a national cultural treasure by relevant agencies in order that its conservation and preservation by the government are prioritized;

WHEREAS, Republic Act 10066 or the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009 mandates the National Commission for Culture and the Arts "to protect, preserve, conserve and promote the nation's cultural heritage, its property and histories, and the ethnicity of local communities;"

WHEREAS, the declaration of the Antique rice terraces as a National Cultural Treasure will give it sufficient protection, under the law;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY resolved directing the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and other government agencies to ensure the conservation and preservation of the Antique Rice Terraces of the Iraynon-Bukidnon as an important cultural heritage for the sake of current and future generations of Filipinos;

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA
Senator