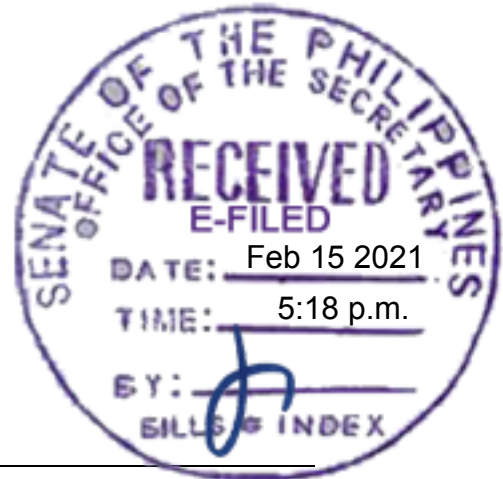


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
S.B. No. 2055



Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

AN ACT
DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR AS THE HOME OF THE
GOLDEN TARA


EXPLANATORY NOTE

We know that the pre-colonial history of the Philippines involves vibrant regional trade, a civilized society and strong cultural traditions. Yet, when we talk about concrete examples of such, there is much to be desired.

A good example is the Golden Tara, a 9th-10th century statuette of a female deity, made of 21-karat gold, which was found along the banks of the Wawa River in the Municipality of Esperanza, Province of Agusan del Norte in 1917.

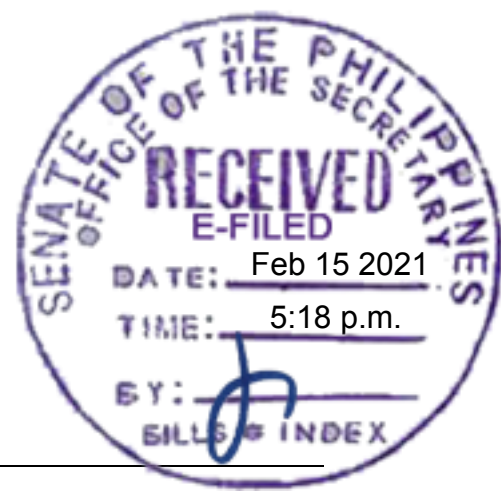
Cultural objects and artifacts are the best representation of the community's identity. They are material culture anchored to the past and evoke history. The State's promotion of the Golden Tara, also known as the Agusan Gold Image, is important not only in the establishment of cultural identification of Filipinos for at least 600 years before the European exploration of the Pacific, but also as a reminder now and to the future generations that our ancestors were highly-skilled, had belief systems in place, and were established peoples occupying the islands that we now know as the Philippines.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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**AN ACT
DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR AS THE HOME OF THE
GOLDEN TARA**

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Section 1. It is the policy of the State to preserve and promote historical and cultural artifacts.

The province of Agusan del Sur is hereby declared as the Home of the Golden Tara, a 21-karat gold statuette of a female Hindu deity that dates back to the 9th-10th centuries and was found in 1917 on the banks of the Wawa River in the Municipality of Esperanza, Province of Agusan del Sur. Presently on display in the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, United States of America, it is considered a testament to the rich cultural heritage of Agusan del Sur and to its fine crafting tradition that already existed during the pre-colonial times.

Sec. 2. The Department of Tourism shall feature the Golden Tara and the rich cultural heritage of Agusan del Sur in the Department's overall tourism promotion program.

Sec. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,