

23 MAR -1 P3:13

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE
S.B. No. 1947

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

AN ACT
DECLARING CAGAYAN DE ORO RIVER AND ITS IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS
LOCATED IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL A
CULTURAL HERITAGE ZONE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 16 of the Philippine Constitution states that "*the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.*"

The Philippines is a country blessed with a million and one natural wonders, and when it comes to the great rivers that crisscross the country, few can match the grandeur of Cagayan de Oro River, a river that gives life, beauty and enjoyment to many.

Cagayan River, often called as Cagayan de Oro River, is one of the rivers draining the northern central part of the island of Mindanao in the Philippines. The river has its headwaters in the Kalatungan Mountain Range found in the central part of the province of Bukidnon. It traverses the Municipalities of Talakag, Baungon and Libona, picking up tributaries along the way. It finally empties into the Macajalar Bay at Cagayan de Oro City in the Province of Misamis Oriental.

The river serves as the natural boundary between the Province of Bukidnon and Iligan City and between Bukidnon and Cagayan de Oro City, based on the administrative order issued by the defunct Department of Mindanao and Sulu during the American occupation of the Philippines. In Cagayan de Oro City, it is the dividing line between its two Congressional districts.

Cagayan River is a very popular site for whitewater rafting in the Philippines and has been promoted by the Department of Tourism as the main tourist attraction of Cagayan de Oro City.

Hence, this bill seeks to declare the Cagayan de Oro River as a Heritage Cultural River, to protect it from the threats of pollution, industrialization and other environmentally destructive activities of man. It is also important that the areas near the river be declared as a protected heritage zones in order to help preserve the several historical and archaeological sites and ecosystem of the land.

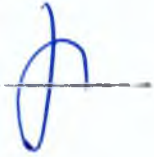
In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


IMEE R. MARCOS

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

1 **SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the "*Cagayan de Oro River Cultural*
2 *Heritage Zone Act*".
3

4 **SEC. 2.** It is the policy of the State to administer its heritage and natural
5 resources in a spirit of stewardship for the inspiration and benefit of the present and
6 future generations. Towards this end, it shall be the duty of the State to conserve the
7 natural diversity and integrity of the Cagayan de Oro River as well as its sites of historical
8 and cultural importance.
9

10 **SEC. 3.** The Cagayan de Oro River and its immediate environs located in
11 Cagayan de Oro City, Province of Misamis Oriental is hereby declared a cultural heritage
12 zone. As such, it shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism
13 (DOT), in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
14 (DENR), the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the City Government
15 of Cagayan de Oro, and other concerned agencies of the government, and shall be
16 subject to the rules and regulations governing the conservation and preservation of
17 cultural heritage zones.

18 As used in this Act, cultural heritage zone refers to historical, anthropological,
19 archaeological, artistic geographical areas and settings that are culturally significant to
20 the country.
21

1 **SEC. 4.** Any activity that pollutes, destroys or adversely affects the
2 archaeological, historical, cultural, ecological, and economic values of the Cagayan de
3 Oro River and its environs is prohibited.
4

5 **SEC. 5.** Any person or entity which shall cause destruction to the archaeological,
6 historical, cultural, ecological and economic values of the Cagayan de Oro River and its
7 premises shall suffer a fine of not less than One Hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00)
8 but not more than Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00) and an imprisonment of one (1)
9 to five (5) years.
10

11 **SEC. 6.** The DOT in coordination with the DENR, the NCCA, the Tourism
12 Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), the National Historical
13 Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), the National Museum of the Philippines (NMP),
14 the City Government of Cagayan de Oro, and other concerned agencies of the
15 government, shall immediately prepare the development plan involving the
16 conservation, preservation, and development of Cagayan de Oro River Cultural Heritage
17 Zone: Provide, That the development plan shall ensure the conservation and
18 preservation of the Cagayan de Oro River and its environs and protect it from threats
19 of pollution, industrialization, and other environmentally destructive human activities.
20

21 **SEC. 7.** The DENR shall conduct and execute a survey to determine the actual
22 metes and bounds of the Cagayan de Oro River Cultural Heritage Zone.
23

24 **SEC. 8.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in
25 coordination with the DENR, the TIEZA, the NCCA, the NHCP, the NMP, the City
26 Government of Cagayan de Oro, and other concerned agencies of the government shall
27 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this
28 Act.
29

30 **SEC. 9.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
31 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
32

Approved,