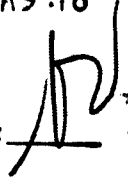




SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

16 SEP 29 A9:18

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 1177

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" Trillanes IV

AN ACT
DECLARING THE "BALANGAY" AS THE NATIONAL BOAT OF THE PHILIPPINES

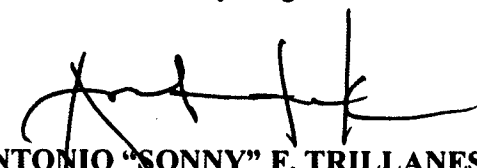
EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the late 1970s, archeologists have discovered evidence of the existence of the *Balangay* which is considered to be the first and oldest wooden sailing vessel discovered in Southeast Asia. This boat is made from wood adjoined by pins and dowels, and was designed for long distance navigation without the use of blueprints or any course-plotting methods. According to researchers, said watercraft exhibited Filipino ingenuity and early craftsmanship, as well as the seamanship skills of Filipinos during the pre-colonial era.¹

The historical importance of the role of *Balangays* in navigation and maritime industry could not be denied. The *Balangay* was instrumental in maintaining harmonious relations with neighboring islands and the Southeast Asia region through cultural and commercial interactions. Historian Arnold Azurin also looks at the possible role of the *Balangays* in the spread of religion citing the presence of the Hindu-Buddhist tradition prior to Islam and Christianity, and the introduction of the *Baybayin* script.²

Considering the invaluable contributions of *Balangay* in the pre-colonial history of the Philippines, it is important that we accord it recognition not only through museum displays, but through instilling it to the consciousness of every Filipino. This can be done by declaring it as the National Boat of the Philippines, forming part of the roster of national symbols of the country. Through this measure, it is hoped that the state inculcate nationalism and pride in the cultural and historical heritage of the nation.

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


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

¹ Rosario, B. (2016, January 31). '*Balangay*' to be declared national boat. Retrieved from <http://www.mb.com.ph/balangay-to-be-declared-national-boat/>

² Dimacali, T. (2013, August 9). *Massive balangay 'mother boat' unearthed in Butuan*. Retrieved from <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/321334/scitech/science/massive-balangay-mother-boat-unearthed-in-butuan>



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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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SENATE

S. No. 1177

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" Trillanes IV

AN ACT
DECLARING THE "BALANGAY" AS THE NATIONAL BOAT OF THE PHILIPPINES

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

1 **SECTION 1.** It is the policy of the State to promote and inculcate nationalism,
2 appreciation and pride in the cultural and historical heritage of the nation including the national
3 symbols of the country which embody its ideals and tradition.
4

5 **SEC. 2.** The "Balangay" is hereby declared as the National Boat of the Philippines. It
6 refers to the prehistoric edged pegged plank type of boat discovered and excavated in the City of
7 Butuan.
8

9 **SEC. 3.** The National Historical Commission of the Philippines, in coordination with the
10 National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the National Museum, the Department of
11 Education and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to
12 carry out the provisions of this Act.
13

14 **SEC. 4.** Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction,
15 administrative order, rule and regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this
16 Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.
17

18 **SEC. 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official
19 Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,