

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



23 MAY -4 P6:32

SENATE
S. No. 2130

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

**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

Cagayan De Oro River is one of the longest and most important rivers in the Philippines, situated in the Northern Mindanao region. The river plays a crucial role in the city's history, serving as a source of livelihood, transportation, and a symbol of the city's identity. The river and its immediate environs are home to several historical and cultural landmarks, including the Macahambus Hill Cave and Gorge, the St. Augustine Cathedral, the Gaston Park, and the City Museum. These landmarks and sites have been witness to the city's past and have played a significant role in shaping its culture and identity.

The declaration of Cagayan De Oro River and its immediate environs as a cultural heritage zone will contribute to the preservation and promotion of the area's rich cultural heritage and history. It will provide an opportunity for future generations to learn and appreciate the city's history, culture, and identity. By preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of the area, the proposed measure will contribute to the sustainable development of the city's tourism industry and the overall economic growth of the region.

This measure is aimed at preserving the rich cultural heritage and history of the river and its surrounding areas, promoting cultural tourism, and providing an opportunity for future generations to appreciate and learn from the city's history.

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


LOREN LEGARDA

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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 Heritage
2 Zone Act."

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

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

1 As used in this Act, cultural heritage zone refers to historical, anthropological,
2 archeological, artistic geographical areas and settings that are culturally significant to the
3 country.

4 Sec. 4. Any activity that pollutes, destroys, or adversely affects the archeological,
5 historical, cultural, ecological, and economic values of the Cagayan de Oro River and its
6 environs is prohibited.

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

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

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

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

1 Sec. 9. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid by a
2 court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall
3 continue to be in full force and effect.

4 Sec. 10. Any law, presidential decree, issuance, executive order, letter of
5 instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the
6 provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

7 Sec. 11. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
8 in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,