

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1919



Introduced by Rep. Robert Ace S. Barbers

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill provides for the establishment of a museum in the City of Surigao to be known as Museo Nan Surigao.

Surigao City, known as the city of Peace, is one of the main gateways to Mindanao because the Philippine-Japan Friendship Highway connecting the three major Islands of our country pass here via the Lipata/Surigao City-Liloan/Southern Leyte Ferry System. It is also regarded as the Surfing Capital of Asia and is endowed with tremendous mineral and other natural resources.

Surigao City's history and cultural heritage are among the oldest and colorful in Mindanao. The earliest aborigines in the country, Mamanwas, are found in Surigao. The first Spaniard to live in the Philippines, by the name of Sebastian Oporto, did so in Surigao; while the first European missionaries proselytized there.

The first flag of the Philippines Republic was raised at the Casa Real of Surigao on 26 December 1898. And in early dawn of 24-25 October 1944, the greatest naval engagement known as the Battle of Surigao Strait pitting the American fleet against the Japanese armada during the closing days of World War II was fought in Surigao in the same historic waters where Ferdinand Magellan entered the Philippines for the first time in March 1521 during his discovery of the Philippines.

And yet, there is no center and museum to house all the artifacts, relics, works of arts and other objects symbolizing our priceless cultural heritage. Many of these objects are in danger of being lost forever. Something must be done before these valuable objects are lost or destroyed. It is thus imperative that a museum be established in the City of Surigao where the artifacts and other objects of historic and lasting value can be collected, catalogued and properly displayed so that generations that will follow hereafter can learn and be inspired by their past heritage and aspire for a better future worthy of their human dignity.

It can be a hallowed palace where Surigaonons can go to and imbibe a sense of historical, culture, ethnological and national identity, where even foreigners can see for

themselves the cultural treasures of our province and country, and become conscious and proud of their ethical values that differentiate us Filipinos from other races.


ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MUSEUM IN THE CITY OF SURIGAO TO BE KNOWN AS
THE MUSEO NAN SURIGAO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Establishment of Museum. There is hereby established a museum in the City of Surigao, to be known as the Museo Nan Surigao. Towards fostering a sense of Filipino pride and identity, the Museo Nan Surigao shall be property collect, catalogue, preserve, display and promote the valuable material symbols of the rich history and cultural heritage of the City of Surigao.

SEC. 2. Supervision. The Museo Nan Surigao shall be under the administrative control and supervision of the City Government of Surigao. It may call upon the support of non-government organizations and civic minded individuals in raising funds and conducting cultural awareness activities, for the management, sustainability and dynamic operation of the museum. The National Museum shall provide technical expertise in the field of museum management, setting up of exhibits, research, preservation and conservation of the Museo Nan Surigao collections.

SEC. 4. Building. The City Government of Surigao shall endeavor to house the Museo Nan Surigao in an old building donated for this purpose.

SEC.4. Appropriations. The amount of Four Million Pessos (P4,000,000) necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be taken from the unappropriated funds of the national treasury or government. Thereafter, the sum of One Million Pesos (P1,000,000) or such sum as may be necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Museo Nan Surigao shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 5. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,