

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Diliman, Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2705



EXPLANATORY NOTE

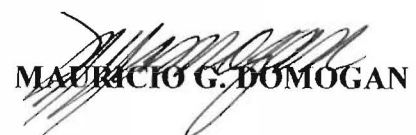
CULTURE, which includes the customs, traditions, mores, literature, and arts of a nation or a particular people, is one of the biggest factors to be considered in the total and wholistic development of a nation towards the right direction. It has to be appreciated and loved to ensure strong patriotism, unity, and solidarity among the people, ingredients sine qua non for true national or regional development.

But love and healthy appreciation of a people's cultural heritage cannot just be had in a silver platter unless its contents are intimately known by the people. Educational principles tell us that the easiest way to know a subject is to speak, read, and write it-in short, the key to such knowledge, love and appreciation of culture is the teaching and learning of the language of that culture.

Unfortunately, in the Cordillera Administrative Region for over the past five decades, many Cordillerans most especially the youth, have steadily become IGNORANT and NON-APPECIATIVE of their cultural heritages for the very reason that often, through government neglect, they were not encouraged to speak, read, and write their own particular Cordillera languages. Through no fault of their own, they lack deeper understanding of their cultural roots despite the many literary materials available in many local and foreign libraries. In fact today, they speak some hodgepodge of languages alien to their own so that when their native language is pitted against such foreign languages as English or Filipino, such native language is often discriminated against.

Implementing the Constitutional provisions of Sections 14, 17, and 18(2) of Article XIV, which encourage the preservation, enrichment, and development of culture is the solution to such problem. In more concrete terms, at least the major CORDILLERA languages namely, Baguio Ilokano, Ifugao, Kankanaey, Inibaloi, Kalinga, Isnag, Tinguian and Ifontok must be taught as optional subjects with accredited units in the tertiary level of colleges and universities of the Cordillera Administrative Region.

In the light of the foregoing, approval of this bill is highly sought.


MAURICIO G. DOMOGAN

Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. 2705

Introduced by
HON. MAURICIO G. DOMOGAN

AN ACT MANDATING THE TEACHING-LEARNING OF THE MAJOR CORDILLERA LANGUAGES, NAMELY, BAGUIO ILOKANO, IFUGAO, INIBALOI, KANKANAI, KALINGA, ISNAG, TINGUIAN, AND IFONTOK, AS OPTIONAL SUBJECTS WITH ACCREDITED UNITS IN THE TERTIARY LEVEL OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

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

Section 1 – This act shall be known as the “Cordillera Language Act of 2004”;

Section 2 – Pursuant to the Constitutional provision of Sections 14, 17, and 18, paragraph 2 of Article XIV on culture, the teaching-learning of a particular language of a people is one of the surest ways to express the cultural heritages of such people in order to bring about pride for one’s culture and deeper patriotism, unity, and solidarity among them.

Section 3 – The teaching-learning of at least eight of the major Cordillera languages, namely, Baguio Ilokano (the lingua franca of C.A.R.), Ifugao, Inibaloi, Kankanai, Kalinga, Isnag, Tinguian, and Ifontok as optional subjects with accredited units in the tertiary level of the colleges and universities in the Cordillera Administrative Region shall be encouraged and promoted;

Section 4 – The Commission on Higher Education (C.H.ED) is tasked to implement the provisions of this Act and shall prescribe the rules and regulations necessary for its implementation;

Section 5 – The colleges and universities in C.A.R. have the option to agree with C.H.ED how many of these eight languages may be taught by them.

Section 6 – Should any part of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not affect the other provisions hereof.

Section 7 – This act shall take effect upon its approval and upon publication as provided by law.

Approved