

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. ____3228__

Introduced by HONORABLE LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Bicol Region has a very rich cultural heritage. Unfortunately however, there is no official repository to house the historical items, artifacts and relics of and about Bicol culture and heritage, much less is there an institution to compile, preserve, display, disseminate information about Bicol literature, its origin, history and development, legends, etymology of Bicol words, religious practices and all other documents, materials and articles depictive of the culture and history of Bicol Region.

This bill proposes to establish a Bikol Heritage Museum and Library in the Capital Town of Pili in Camarines Sur to serve as an institutional medium for the collection, preservation and enhancement of the cultural, artistic, archaeological, social, religious and philosophical heritage of the Bicol Region.

This project may be undertaken as a cooperative undertaking among the Provincial Government of Camarines Sur and other private or government entities with similar orientations.

While it is contemplated that the Provincial Government of Camarines Sur shall provide the land and the operating expenses of the Bikol Heritage Museum and Library, it is reposed upon the national government to provide, by way of assistance, some appropriations for the construction of the main building with which to house the facilities of the Bikol Heritage Museum and Library.

Considering the merits of this bill, approval hereof is earnestly requested.



LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3228

Introduced by HONORABLE LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE

AN ACT
TO ESTABLISH THE BIKOL HERITAGE MUSEUM AND
LIBRARY, DEFINING ITS PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby established the Bikol Heritage Museum and Library in the Capital Town of Pili, in the Province of Camarines Sur, which shall serve as the institutional medium for the collection, preservation and enhancement of the cultural, artistic, archaeological, social, religious and philosophical heritage of the Bicol Region, with the end in view of cultivating, among the Bicolanos, a deeper awareness of the richness of their legacies and of their relevance to their contemporary and future aspirations.

SECTION 2. Within the framework of the stated objectives provided in the immediately preceding section, the Bikol Heritage Museum and Library shall engage in or make available, its personnel, its expertise and financial resources as herein provided in this Act, to any relevant or meaningful undertaking which seeks to discover, preserve, restore, provide documentation or give publicity to the finest embodiments of the Bicol Region's heritage.

In pursuit of the undertakings and activities envisioned in this Act, for the Bikol Heritage Museum and Library to do and perform, it may either solely or in cooperation with other private or government entities with similar orientation or interested in its affairs, make arrangement for cooperative endeavors or seek technical assistance, or obtain grants, endowments or donations in cash or in kind, in order to enable it to carry out and discharge its objectives its objectives and functions efficiently and effectively.

SECTION 3. For purposes of implementing the intents of this Act, the activities and functions that the Bikol Heritage Museum and Library is authorized to give emphasis to in pursuit of its various undertakings, shall include, but not limited to, the following:

1. To acquire and display a varied range of Bicol art and artifacts;
2. To compile the musical notes and lyrics of Bicol songs, ballads and contemporary music compositions by Bicolanos and to collect samples of musical instruments of Bicol origin, design or manufacture;
3. To publish and disseminate Bicol literary works, epics, stories and historical accounts;
4. To compile Bicoliana literature; film, or audio-visual recordings of cultural performances in music, dance, oral literature, theater arts and the like;
5. To compile and publish Bicol sayings, epigrams, proverbs, legends and the origin and etymology of Bicol words, names of barangays, towns and other places of interest and their respective history.
6. To gather and document Bicol Religious practices and traditions, and the background and origin of Bicol fiestas and festivals;
7. To compile photographs of and showcase by appropriate exhibits Bicol landmarks, historical sites and scenic views;
8. To gather specimens of archaeological findings; to collect stones, rocks and other geological materials; and to preserve by appropriate methods, samples of flora and fauna indigenous to the Bicol Region.

SECTION 4. The Provincial Government of Camarines Sur shall provide the land that shall be necessary for the Bikol Heritage Museum and Library to construct and establish its main venue and ancillary offices and facilities, as well as well as the annual operating expenses that shall be needed to carry out and maintain its operations and activities.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall, by way of national government start up assistance, incorporate in the General Appropriations Act and/or from other funding sources as the President of the Philippines shall authorize, the sum of Twenty-Five Million Pesos (P25,000,000.00) which shall be earmarked and disbursed to the Provincial Government of Camarines Sur for the construction and establishment of the Bikol Heritage Museum and Library's main building that will house the intended museum and library in accordance with the stated objectives of this Act.

The Provincial Government of Camarines Sur shall also provide supplementary budget for capital outlays and other financial and technical support to the Bikol Heritage Museum and Library.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take immediate effect upon its approval.

APPROVED,