

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4083



Introduced by Honorable Catalino V. Figueroa

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 1998, the Republic of the Philippines turned a century old. A people so long beset by economic problems and natural disasters celebrated the centennial of the birth of their nation. Such an opportune time and situation strongly calls for greater nationalism and unity among our people. Greater and stronger nationalism can be manifested in a number of ways: in deeds, pronouncements and symbols.

This Act centers on the need to modify our country's national seal which contains portraits of the American Eagle and the Lion – both of which are non-indigenous animals and of non-Filipino origin. Why then should we contain upholding symbolism? This brings us to another fundamental question: Is our country wanting in animals we can call our own that we have to use portraits of imported animals in our national seal: a very important aspect of the nation's dignity and pride as a sovereign country?

During the observance of our One Hundredth Anniversary as a sovereign country and people should be bereft of any vestiges of colonialism and imperialism. Anything that reminds our people of their colonial past should be discarded from the national memory. It is but proper that something as sacred and significant to our national dignity as the national seal should be representative and expressive of the sovereignty and pride of the Filipino as a people.

It is in consonance with the national sovereignty, interest, dignity and pride that the national seal be modified as to replace the American Eagle and Lion with the **Philippine Eagle** and **Tamaraw**, respectively.

The replacement of the two foreign animals with the aforementioned Filipino animals will make our national seal a truly Filipino symbol, thereby reinforcing our sense of national sovereignty and pride. The Philippine Eagle, in its fighting form, shall symbolize the Filipino people's firm resolve to achieve their long-deserved goal of national development. On the other hand, the

Tamaraw being a work animal, shall exemplify the Filipino's cherished traditions of resiliency, diligence as well as their work ethic.

The enactment of this bill is very timely and highly relevant in view of the recent Centennial celebration.



CATALINO V. FIGUEROA

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**AN ACT
MODIFYING THE NATIONAL SEAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE
PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE ADMINISTRATIVE
CODE OF 1987, AS AMENDED**

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

SECTION 1. SECTION 14, CHAPTER 4, Book One of the
Administrative Code of 1987, as amended, is hereby further amended to read
as follows:

"SEC. 14. (1) The Arms shall have two paleways of two (2) pieces,
azure and gules; a chief argent studded with three mullets equidistant from
each other; and, in point of honor, ovoid argent over all the sun rayonnant with
eight minor and lesser rays: IN SINISTER BASE GULES, THE TAMARAW: IN
DEXTER BASE AZURE. THE PHILIPPINE EAGLE DISPLAYED PROPER,
Beneath shall be a scroll with the words "Republic of the Philippines", or its
equivalent in the national language, inscribed thereon.

(2) The Great Seal shall be circular in form, with the arms as described
in the preceding paragraph, but without the scroll and the inscription thereon,
and surrounding the whole, a double marginal circle within which shall appear
the words "Republic of the Philippines", or its equivalent in the national

language. For the purposes of placing the Great Seal, the color of the arms shall not be deemed essential".

SECTION 2. The national Historical Institute is hereby mandated to adopt the design of the Tamaraw (ANDA MINDORENSIS) and the Philippine eagle (PITHECOBHAGA JEFFERYI), as depicted in the one peso and fifty centavos coins, respectively, being used by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for the purposes of this Act.

The National Historical Institute, in cooperation with the National centennial Commission, shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 3. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be provided from the regular appropriations of the National Historical Institute or from its savings and other available funds. Thereafter, any amount necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. All laws, decrees, executive orders and other presidential issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,