

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
THIRD REGULAR SESSION



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and  
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.

House Bill No. 6666

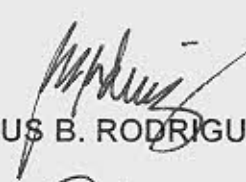
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The *Dracontomelon dao* tree or the Dao tree as it is known in the country is a tropical canopy tree that could grow as high as 45 metres or 148 feet. It has a greyish-brown trunk which is branchless up to about 20 m (66 ft) and has narrow buttresses which can reach up its trunk up to 6 m (20 ft) high. This tree is native to the riverine and limestone forests of Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Thailand.

In the Philippines, one of the biggest and oldest Dao tree can be found in Cagayan de Oro City, particularly within a pocket secondary forest in the Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) area of the E. Pelaez Ranch in Bayombong, Barangay Cugman. At present, this Dao tree is 49 meters high and has a diameter of 222.8 centimetres. It is estimated to be more than 200 years old.

It is imperative that the tree be declared the heritage tree of Cagayan de Oro City in order to ensure its long term protection. It can also be an additional tourist attraction for the city.

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

  
RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

  
MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

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AN ACT

DECLARING THE DAO TREE WHICH CAN BE FOUND WITHIN A POCKET SECONDARY FOREST IN THE INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT (IFMA) AREA OF THE E. PELAEZ RANCH IN BAYOMBONG, BARANGAY CUGMAN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY AS THE HERITAGE TREE OF THE CITY AND FURTHER DECLARING IT A TOURIST SPOT

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

**SECTION 1.** The Dao Tree estimated to be 200 years old in a pocket secondary forest in the Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) area of the E. Pelaez Ranch in Bayombong, Barangay Cugman, Cagayan de Oro City is hereby declared and shall be known as the "Cagayan de Oro Heritage Tree". It is further declared to be a protected tree which has to be nurtured and preserved and be a main tourist destination. As such, they shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT).

**SEC 2.** The DOT, in coordination with the Cagayan de Oro City Cultural Heritage Conservation Council, the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and other concerned agencies of the government, shall, within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, prepare the development plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure which shall ensure its protection and enhance tourism in the said area: *Provided*, That said development shall ensure the preservation and historic significance of the identified tourist attraction.

**SEC 3.** The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the said development plan and incorporate the same in the Department's overall tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year.

**SEC 4.** *Appropriations* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the Annual Budget of the Department of Tourism under the General Appropriations Act.

**SEC 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*** – The DOT shall likewise promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

**SEC 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,