

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

SIXTEENTH (16TH) CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1076



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE NANCY A. CATAMCO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The original pre-war Province of Cotabato was the biggest province in the Philippines until 1967 when a portion of the biggest premier province of the country was separated so as to form the Province of South Cotabato.

On November 22, 1973, pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 341, what was left of the Province of Cotabato was further divided into three provinces, namely: North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, and Maguindanao. North Cotabato was recognized as the mother province.

Ten years later, on December 19, 1983, the then Batasang Pambansa enacted Batas pambansa Blg. 660 renaming the Province of North Cotabato to merely "Cotabato." The stated aim of the said Batas Pambansa was to preserve and perpetuate the great history of the province of Cotabato which includes the heroic and patriotic deeds of past Muslim and Christian leaders who, through untold sacrifices, shaped the destiny of the empire province.

Now, twenty-seven years later, with the recent regional realignment, there is a necessity to officially revert the province into its old name, "North Cotabato" in order to distinguish it from the local governments of Cotabato City and South Cotabato.

It is believed that with this proposed reversion, the intent of the earlier legislators to rename the province from North Cotabato to Province of Cotabato will not be put to vain. Instead, it is believed that the great history of the people of the original province of Cotabato will be better understood and preserved. Indeed, the original Province of Cotabato comprised not only of the present province of North Cotabato, but of the present Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao and South Cotabato.

The immediate passage of the present proposed bill is earnestly requested.



NANCY A. CATAMCO

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**AN ACT RENAMING THE PROVINCE OF COTABATO TO "NORTH COTABATO"
AND TO AMEND FOR THE PURPOSE, BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 660**

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

SECTION 1. The Province of Cotabato shall hereafter be known as North Cotabato.

SECTION 2. Batas Pambansa Bilang 660 entitled "An Act Changing the Name of the Province of North Cotabato to Cotabato," is hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. The Department of Interior and Local Government is hereby directed to carry out the purpose of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved