



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. **2855**

Introduced by **Honorable PAULINO SALVADOR "DOY" C. LEACHON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

One of the essentials of a strong state is patriotism. The same is nurtured by giving reverence to the symbols that we as Filipinos can rally upon for inspiration, guidance and pride.

For decades, the Philippine carabao was regarded as the country's National Land Animal. But this "beast of burden" can also be found in other countries, particularly in Southeast Asia.

The island of Mindoro has been to home to a unique creature. This "carabao-liked" animal, the Tamaraw smaller in frame but more agile and fast can only be found in our country.

The Tamaraw can be likened to us Filipinos, who can easily shift from one terrain to another; resilient and enduring. I believe that this animal can best represent our country.

Another byproduct of making Tamaraw as the National Land Animal is the promotion of awareness and support to this threatened wildlife. In the 1990s, the Maya, then our National Bird was replaced by the Philippine Eagle or popularly known as the "Monkey - eating Eagle." The move spurred support to save the then dwindling population of the Philippine Eagle. By this move, it is hoped that the Tamaraw will experience the same fate as that of the Philippine Eagle.


PAULINO SALVADOR C. LEACHON
First District, Oriental Mindoro



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**AN ACT DECLARING THE TAMARAW AS THE NATIONAL LAND ANIMAL OF
THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

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

SECTION 1. It is the policy of the state to inculcate and develop patriotism and national pride to each and every Filipino. Using symbols that not only embodies the best of what the republic can offer but those which are unique and can only be found in our country.

SECTION 2. *Definition of the Tamaraw.* - found only in the Philippines, particularly in the island of Mindoro, the Tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*) or Mindoro dwarf buffalo is a small, hoofed mammal and it is widely believed to be the only endemic Philippine bovine.

SECTION 3. The Tamaraw is hereby declared as the Philippine National Land Animal. The official adoption of the Tamaraw as the national land animal shall be promulgated by making November 15 as the National Tamaraw Commemoration and Awareness Day, coinciding with the foundation days of Oriental and Occidental Mindoro. Furthermore, efforts to preserve the Tamaraw shall likewise be a priority for the government given its status one of the country's endangered species.

SECTION 4. The Department of Education, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provision of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected hereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 7. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.



PAULINO SALVADOR C. LEACHON
First District, Oriental Mindoro