



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

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5124**



Introduced by Representative Sitti Djalila A. Turabin-Hataman

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to promote, protect, preserve and conserve the traditional arts in Mindanao, creating for the purpose the Institute for Traditional Arts in Mindanao and Sulu.

Mindanao is a cultural tapestry. It is home to 18 Lumad tribes, 13 ethnic-linguistic Moro tribes and 64 settler groups who have lived in the island for centuries. Mindanao a group of islands with peoples diverse ethnic backgrounds and cultural diversities. Each ethnic group has its own unique identity and customs, manifested mostly in their traditional arts passed on and kept for generations.

The traditional arts in Mindanao and Sulu as well as in hundreds of adjacent islands are well understood in academic, popular and community contexts as diverse, profoundly meaningful and deeply embedded in history. Mindanao traditional arts constitute national heritage.

However, there is a real concern that the traditional arts in Mindanao and Sulu such as the art of hand weaving, metallurgy and methalsmithing, architecture, music and epic chanting, are becoming extinct. The younger generations do not have an interest in learning their parents' arts and crafts. The Indigenous People and Muslims, like any other indigenous groups, have been actually influenced and affected by the modern world; their cultural distinctiveness is slowly being erased. Because of urban influences, their unique traditional arts are on the brink of extinction. Armed conflicts that result to

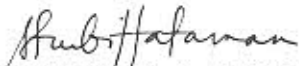
burning of properties and constant displacement, as well as poverty that force families to sell heirlooms, contribute to the decline of the traditional arts.

A good number of Filipinos, organizations, anthropologists and art specialists all over the world are focused on preserving and conserving the traditional arts in Mindanao. But State intervention is necessary.

The proposed creation of Institute of Sulu and Mindanao Traditional Arts or INSUMINTRA is urgent. The INSUMINTRA is mandated to plan, institute, implement and monitor traditional arts, crafts, programs, projects and activities that will institutionalize the preservation and enhancement of the traditional arts in Mindanao and Sulu. It will also coordinate with other concerned agencies engaged in similar and related activities.

Traditional arts in Mindanao and Sulu must be kept alive, not only because they provide income for the artisans and their communities but more importantly because they are the remaining proof of pre-colonial identity of the people of Mindanao and Sulu, and therefore of all Filipinos.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is highly recommended.


SITTI DJALIA A. TURABIN-HATAMAN



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House Bill No. 5124

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE PROMOTION, PROTECTION AND
CONSERVATION OF THE TRADITIONAL ARTS IN MINDANAO AND
SULU, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE INSTITUTE FOR SULU
AND MINDANAO TRADITIONAL ARTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Traditional Arts in Mindanao and Sulu Act.*”

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – With the growing awakening of the Filipino masses to understand, appreciate and celebrate the nation's cultural diversity and with the call to correct historical injustice against the Muslims and Indigenous People, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to foster the promotion, protection, conservation, enrichment and dynamic evolution of the traditional arts in Mindanao and Sulu for their cultural values and to support the traditional artists for their contributions to the national heritage by ensuring that their skills are passed on to future generations of Mindanaoans and Tausugs.

SEC. 3. ***Institute for Traditional Arts.*** – Pursuant to the above-stated policy, the Institute for Sulu and Mindanao Traditional Arts or INSUMINTRA is hereby created to formulate, implement and monitor policies, plans and cultural programs, projects and activities that promote, preserve, enhance and develop the positive elements of the traditional arts and culture in Mindanao and Sulu. The INSUMINTRA shall coordinate with other agencies engaged in similar and related activities.

The INSUMINTRA shall be an independent agency. It shall render an annual report of its activities and achievements to the President of the Philippines and to Congress of the Philippines.

As used in this Act, *traditional arts* in Mindanao and Sulu refer to the culture of a group of people in Mindanao and Sulu, their skills and knowledge that are passed through generations, from the master craftsmen to apprentice, which include weaving, sculpture, painting, relief work, metallurgy and metal smithing, house and boat architecture, culinary, poetry and epics, solo and ensemble instrumental music, solo and ensemble vocal music, dance, theatre, and multi-media expressions such as ritual.

SEC. 4. ***Coverage.*** – The INSUMINTRA covers the island of Mindanao; the Sulu Archipelago including Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and all the islands in between; Sarangani (or Balut) Island; Siargao, Dinagat and neighboring islands; Samal and Talikud Islands and all nearby islets; Camiguin Island; the islands off the coast of

Polloc Harbor; Capul Island located at the southern tip of Samar whose inhabitants and their descendants speak the Samalan language.

SEC. 5. ***Principal Office.*** – The INSUMINTRA shall have two main offices, one in Zamboanga City and the other in the Municipality of Maramag, Province of Bukidnon. It may establish field offices in other parts of Mindanao and Sulu, as may be necessary, to achieve the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 6. ***Duties and Responsibilities.*** – The INSUMINTRA shall exercise the following duties and responsibilities:

- a) Consolidate an active database of traditional arts forms and practices in Mindanao and Sulu, practitioners or artists, locations, relevant genealogies, and historical, anthropological and archaeological accounts;
- b) Conduct the necessary research and grassroots consultation to develop project designs aligned with community interests and structure;
- c) Determine an annual priority list of traditional arts practitioners to engage in the recuperation or resuscitation projects based on priority-setting metrics;
- d) Undertake a pioneering role in project design that:
 - 1) Account for the highly specific, localized nature of traditional arts;
 - 2) Create economic support systems other than gross commercialization;

3) Allow transition of old arts to modernity without decay of quality;

4) Support communities rather than individual artists; and

5) Promote traditional arts in their full complexity, without simplification of social context.

e) Include in the design of projects, the environmental dimensions that impact the chances of survival of specific forms of traditional arts in Mindanao;

f) Implement projects in different parts of Mindanao and Sulu based on set priorities;

g) Monitor and evaluate projects based on priority setting metrics;

h) Represent traditional artists if in negotiation with regional, national and international entities in matters concerning the staging, circulation, and the use of traditional arts, through partnership with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) with regard to the Gawad sa Manlilikha ng Bayan Awards (GAMABA) laureates' activities;

i) Initiate or engage donor agencies and philanthropists in designing projects to secure the future of traditional arts in Mindanao and Sulu;

j) Engage top calibre scholars, and develop scholars within traditional arts communities, in writing, publishing and circulating information and analyses of traditional arts in Mindanao and Sulu;

- k) Commission and supervise the circulation video and digital products on traditional arts in Mindanao and Sulu, in ways that can economically benefit the practitioners;
- l) Include design and implement projects or programs that involve entire communities in ways that assure dignity and the communication of complexity;
- m) Nominate deserving traditional artists to GAMABA Search Committee of the NCCA;
- n) Support the NCCA-established Schools of Living Tradition (SLT), by providing evaluation services and educational training modules for community skills in passing on tradition to their young; and
- o) Perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. **Board of Trustees.** – The governance and policy-making powers of INSUMINTRA are vested in, and its powers exercised by, the Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, composed of eleven (11) members as follows:

- a) Chairperson of the Mindanao Development Authority;
- b) Chairperson of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts;
- c) Secretary of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos;
- d) Chairperson of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples;

- e) A representative of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao;
- f) Executive Director of INSUMINTRA; and
- g) Five members of the private sector who are of known probity and who have professionally studied or practiced traditional arts in Mindanao and Sulu, or who are graduates of anthropology, education or social science.

The members of the Board coming from the private sector shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of their respective organizations.

The chairperson of the Board shall be elected by the members from among themselves.

SEC. 8. ***Powers and Duties.*** – The Board shall exercise the following powers and duties:

- a) Prepare and adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the effective discharge of its responsibilities;
- b) Constitute the organizational structure and appoint INSUMINTRA's executive director, assistant executive director, officers and employees;
- c) Review INSUMINTRA programs periodically;
- d) Receive donations from local or international donors, in cash or in kind, and appropriate such sum as maybe provided by law for the support of the (ITAMS) INSUMINTRA; and

e) Perform such other powers and duties as maybe necessary to carry out its powers and duties.

SEC. 9. ***Meetings.*** – The Board shall meet, preferably at its principal office, at least once a month to discharge its duties and responsibilities. A meeting of the Board may be called by the chairperson or upon written request of majority of its members.

The votes of the majority of the members consisting a quorum are sufficient for the adoption of any rule, regulation, resolution or decision of the Board.

SEC.10. ***Secretariat.*** – The Board shall organize a secretariat headed by an executive director.

The Secretariat consists of the following component offices:

- a) Office of the Executive Director;
- b) Monitoring and Evaluation Office;
- c) Field Work Team; and
- d) Library and Archives.

The Board shall fix its staffing pattern, determine the duties, qualifications, responsibilities and functions as well as the compensation scheme for the position to be created upon the recommendation of the executive director. The staffing pattern shall be approved and prescribed by the Board within one hundred twenty (120) days from the approval of this Act.

SEC. 11. ***Functions of the Executive Director.*** – The executive director shall exercise the following functions:

- a) Prepare the staffing pattern of the INSUMINTRA which includes the qualifications and compensation of officials and personnel in as may be necessary for the proper discharge of the functions of INSUMINTRA;
- b) Control and supervise the operation and internal administration of the
- c) INSUMINTRA in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations;
- d) Recommend to the Board such policies and measures which are deemed necessary for the effective exercise and discharge of the powers and responsibilities of INSUMINTRA;
- e) Submit an annual report to the Board on the status of the programs and the financial condition of INSUMINTRA, including a recommendation for its budget for the ensuing year; and
- f) Perform such other functions as may vested herein by the Board.

SEC. 12. ***Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the establishment of the INSUMINTRA shall be set aside from any available funds of the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued operation of the institute shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 13. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the chairperson of INSUMINTRA shall, in coordination with the other government agencies mentioned in Section 7 of this

Act, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 14. ***Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to

or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SEC. 15. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,