

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

HOUSE BILL NO. 2317

Introduced by Honorable Celso G. Regencia

The majestic Maria Cristina Falls in Iligan and the grand Agus Rivers crisscrossing the entire Lanao Provinces and Iligan and its tributaries are not only traditional areas but are also historical and cultural properties of the various peoples in Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, and Lanao del Sur.

It is the Almighty God, the Divine Providence, who created these natural resources of which the great people of Iligan, Lanao del Sur, and Lanao del Norte are the foremost stewards of Maria Cristina Falls and the Agus River.

The identity, names, emotions, and feelings of the people along these natural resources are closely linked to Maria Cristina Falls and the Agus River. No other people in Mindanao or anywhere in the world are closely attached to these natural resources except the people of Iligan and the entire Lanao. They are the keepers of these natural gifts and shall be the first to benefit from them.

The history, culture, way of life, and aspirations of the peoples in Iligan, Lanao del Norte, and Lanao del Sur are defined by Maria Cristina, Agus River, and including Lake Lanao.

On June 14, 1952, in a meeting with the local leaders from Iligan and Lanao aboard the Presidential Yacht in Cagayan de Oro, President Elpidio Quirino who spearheaded the construction of the Maria Cristina Hydroelectric Power made an enduring promise to the local leaders that with the hydroelectric power, Iligan and the Lanao Provinces would become the premier industrial area in Mindanao.

That promise failed. That promise was never sustained by the national leadership at the expense of the exploitation of Maria Cristina and the Agus River.

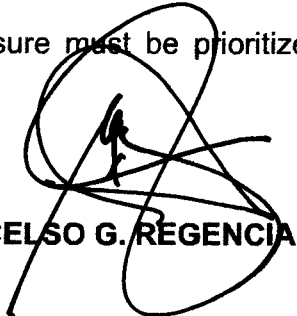
In this 19th Congress with the new Presidency of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., the people of Iligan are voicing out and will be persistent in claiming the

promise, to give preference to Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, and Lanao del Sur from the benefits, opportunities, and potentials of the hydroelectric power to development of these areas and in improving the quality of life of the people.

As a host City, Iligan is going to claim the promise of industrialization and economic development in lieu of the natural wealth that was exploited.

To propel industrial and economic development, a 20% discount from the prevailing electricity rates must be given to Iligan City.

It is prayed that this proposed legislative measure must be prioritized and be given utmost urgency in its approval.



CELSO G. REGENCIA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

HOUSE BILL NO. 2317

Introduced by Honorable Celso G. Regencia

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

AN ACT
GUARANTEEING THE RIGHT TO THE NATURAL WEALTH AND GRANTING A
TWENTY PERCENT DISCOUNT (20%) IN THE ELECTRICITY RATES TO ALL
ELECTRIC CONSUMERS IN ILIGAN CITY, LANAOS DEL NORTE, AND LANAOS DEL
SUR BEING THE HOST CITY AND PROVINCES OF MARIA CRISTINA FALLS,
AGUS RIVER, AND LAKE LANAOS

SECTION 1. TITLE. This Act shall be known as "The Maria Cristina Falls Act of the Philippines".

SECTION 2. HOST AREAS. Iligan City, Lanaos del Norte and Lanaos del Sur are the host City, the stewards, of the natural resources of Maria Cristina Falls, Agus River, and Lake Lanaos.

SECTION 3. RIGHT TO THE NATURAL WEALTH. It is guaranteed in this Act the right of the people in Iligan City, Lanaos del Norte, and Lanaos del Sur to enjoy the natural wealth of Maria Cristina Falls, Agus River, and Lake Lanaos.

SECTION 4. PRIVILEGE. The residential, commercial, and industrial electric consumers in Iligan City, Lanaos del Norte, and Lanaos del Sur must be granted a 20% discount on electric rates compared to all other areas in Mindanao.

SECTION 5. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PREFERENCE. The National Economic Development and the Mindanao Development Authority are mandated to give preference to Iligan City, Lanaos del Norte, and Lanaos del Sur in the economic development being the host areas of this natural wealth.

SECTION 6. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. The National Power Corporation shall be the foremost institution in leading the protection of Maria Cristina

Falls, Agus River, and Lake Lanao with close coordination with the local governments of Iligan, Lanao del Norte, and Lanao del Sur and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

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

Approved,