

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6152



Introduced by Representative Vincent J. Garcia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Walingwaling orchid as the National Orchid of the Philippines.

The walingwaling plant, which is the best orchid variety in the country, is scientifically known as *Vanda Sanderiana* and used to abound in the tropical forest of Mount Apo, Province of Davao, and Zamboanga del Sur. The orchid is touted as the queen of Philippine flowers and is worshipped as “Diwata” by the native bagobos.

Aside from having its origin in the Philippines, the Walingwaling orchid is truly symbolic of the Filipino traits and characteristics.

The Walingwaling orchid grow on tall diptherocarps but is never known to be a parasite. It lives on treetops reaching for the light of the sun.

This majestic plant perched atop a tall tree enjoying the elements of the earth symbolize the high aspirations of the Filipino. The Walingwaling is never choosy in its growing environs. It is known to thrive in the lowlands of Southern Tagalog, the cool climes of Los Banos, Laguna and even the cold wintry weather of America, subsisting on the lights of a fluorescent bulb. Such quality can be a symbol of resiliency of the Filipinos. Moreover, the plant could live without support. It does not shy away from symbiotic relationships with the diptherocarps. Such characteristics are symbolic of Filipino independence. As a proud Filipino race, we enjoy our independence but we also live harmoniously and peacefully with other nations.

The ornamental value of Walingwaling is of national and international popularity. It was in 1982 when Frederick Sander of London introduced the Walingwaling to the orchid enthusiasts and lovers in London. It was also propagated by orchid lobbyist and commercial orchid growers in other countries particularly Singapore, Thailand, Hongkong and Hawaii.

Since then, the Walingwaling hybrids have been one of the world's multibillion dollar orchid and cutflower industry. This is symbolic of the adaptability of the Filipinos.

If Walingwaling shall be saved, protected, regulated and its industry developed, it could be the single biggest dollar earner for the country and would contribute to the economic growth of the Filipinos.

For these reasons, the Walingwaling should be the Philippines' National Orchid, hence, this bill, approval of which is earnestly recommended.

Vincent Garcia
VINCENT J. GARCIA

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE WALINGWALING ORCHID AS THE NATIONAL ORCHID OF
THE PHILIPPINES

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

SECTION 1. The Walingwaling, the scientific name of which is *Vanda Sanderiana*, is hereby declared as the National Orchid of the Philippines.

SEC. 2. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, in coordination with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, shall promulgate the rules and regulations governing the acquisition, care and disposal of, and the protection, conservation and propagation of the Walingwaling.

SEC. 3. All laws, decrees, orders and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.