



Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City



NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6999**

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Introduced by Representative FRANCISCO JOSE "BINGO" F. MATUGAS II

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SIARGAO ISLAND CULTURAL CENTER AND MUSEUM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GENERAL LUNA, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE, DEFINING ITS PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Siargao Island is one of the prime tourism destinations in the country. Known to many as the Surfing Capital of the Philippines, Cloud 9 in the Municipality of General Luna is one of the best surf spots in the world. Aside from surfing, however, our visitors in the island have been in awe of its pristine beauty – clear blue waters, unspoiled beaches and welcoming locals. No doubt it was named the best island in the world by Condé Nast Traveler in 2019 and best in Asia in 2021. The entire island, a protected landscape and seascape, was one of Time Magazine's World Greatest Places 2021.

Aside from the island's physical beauty, however, it has a very rich cultural, artistic, social and religious heritage. There are festivals all year round – the Cabuntog Festival, Kinhason Festival, Bakhaw Festival, Lip-ipan Festival, among others. It is home to old churches like the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in the Municipality of Del Carmen and the Sto. Niño Parish Church in the Municipality of Dapa. Unfortunately, it has no cultural center and museum to showcase and preserve this heritage. This bill seeks to establish the Siargao Island Museum and Cultural Center to ensure the collection, preservation and enhancement of its heritage, local history, identity, traditions, and values.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**FRANCISCO JOSE "BINGO" F. MATUGAS II**  
First District, Surigao del Norte (Siargao Island)



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

1       SECTION 1. There is hereby established a cultural center and museum in the  
2 Municipality of General Luna, Siargao Island, Province of Surigao del Norte, to be  
3 known as the Siargao Island Cultural Center and Museum to promote culture and the  
4 arts. It shall serve as the institutional medium for the protection, preservation,  
5 presentation and promotion of the cultural, artistic, archaeological, social, historical,  
6 religious and philosophical heritage of Siargao Island and its people in view of the  
7 richness of their legacies and of their relevance to their contemporary and future  
8 aspirations.

9       SEC. 2. The Siargao Island Cultural Center and Museum shall be a collaboration  
10 between the Municipalities of Burgos, Dapa, Del Carmen, General Luna, Pilar, San  
11 Benito, San Isidro, Santa Monica, Socorro and the National Commission for Culture  
12 and the Arts (NCCA) with its concerned affiliated cultural agencies and pertinent  
13 academic and private sector partners, and members of the community, with its site,  
14 structures, governance, organization, operations, and development to be provided for  
15 by mutual agreement between the parties, to be executed and published within one  
16 (1) year from the effectivity of this Act.

17       SEC. 3. To fulfill its purposes and achieve its objectives, the Siargao Island  
18 Cultural Center and Museum shall:

- (a) Complete musical notes and lyrics of Siargaonon's songs, traditional songs and ballads, and modern and contemporary music compositions, and collect samples of musical instruments of local origin, design, and creation;
- (b) Publish and disseminate Siargao Island's literary works, epics, stories, and historical accounts;
- (c) Compile Siargao Island's literature, film, or audio-visual recordings of cultural performances in music, dance, oral literature, and festival celebrations;
- (d) Compile Siargao Island's epigrams, proverbs, legends, and the origin and etymology of the island, its words, names of barangays, municipalities and other places of interests and their respective histories;
- (e) Gather and document Siargao Island's religious practices and traditions, and the background and origin of the local fiestas and festivals;
- (f) Compile photographs of and showcase by appropriate exhibits, local landmarks, historical sites and scenic views, and acquire and display varied range of local arts and artifacts;
- (g) Gather specimens of archaeological findings, collect stones, rocks, and other geological materials, and preserve by appropriate methods samples of flora and fauna indigenous to the island and its environs;
- (h) Conduct performances on local music, dances, arts, literary works, epics, stories, historical accounts and legends; and
- (i) Carry out any other relevant and appropriate activities.

SEC. 4. The Municipal Government of General Luna shall provide the land necessary for the construction or establishment, or both of the main venue and ancillary offices and facilities of the Siargao Island Cultural Center and Museum.

SEC. 5. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's budget of the NCCA (Proper). Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NCCA, in coordination with the municipal governments in Siargao Island, other concerned agencies of the government, and private stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. Notwithstanding the non-issuance of the implementing rules and regulations, this Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.