Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9894

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Introduced by Representative Jose Manuel F. Alba

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE EAGLE CENTER IN THE PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The majestic Philippine Eagle, our national bird and a symbol of our country's rich biodiversity, faces numerous threats to its survival. Deforestation, illegal logging, hunting, and habitat loss have pushed this magnificent bird to the brink of extinction. To address these concerns, this legislative proposal seeking the establishment of Philippine Eagle Center in Bukidnon is hereby introduced. As responsible stewards of our natural heritage, it is our duty to take decisive action to protect and conserve this iconic species.

Bukidnon, with its diverse ecosystems and lush forests, provides an ideal setting for a Philippine Eagle Center. By setting-up such a facility in Bukidnon, we can create a sanctuary where these endangered birds can thrive in a protected environment. The center would serve as a hub for research, conservation efforts, and public education, raising awareness about the importance of preserving our biodiversity.

Furthermore, the Philippine Eagle Center in Bukidnon would not only benefit the eagles but also the local communities. It would create employment opportunities, promote eco-tourism, and foster a sense of pride and ownership among the residents. By involving local stakeholders in conservation initiatives, we can ensure the long-term sustainability of our efforts.

Moreover, establishing a Philippine Eagle Center in Bukidnon aligns with our national goals of sustainable development and environmental stewardship. It sends a powerful message to the world that the Philippines is committed to protecting its unique wildlife and natural resources.

Finally, the establishment of a Philippine Eagle Center in Bukidnon is not just an option; it is a necessity. It is a testament to our commitment to safeguarding our biodiversity for future generations. Let us unite in this noble cause and work together to ensure the survival of the Philippine Eagle and the preservation of our natural heritage.

JOSE MANUEL F. ALBA
Representative, 1st District, Bukidnon

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

Section 1. Title - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Eagle Center Act in the Province of Bukidnon."

Section 2. Declaration of Policy - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to conserve and protect the critically endangered Philippine Eagle, one of the country's national treasures. This legislation aims to establish a sustainable and dedicated facility for the conservation, breeding, research, and public awareness of the Philippine Eagle in the Province of Bukidnon.

Section 3. Creating a Philippine Eagle Center – There is hereby created a Philippine Eagle Center, hereafter referred to as the PEC which shall be under the supervision and control of the DENR.

Section 4. Powers and Functions - The Philippine Eagle Center shall have the following powers and functions:

(a) To provide a safe and conducive environment for the conservation and protection of the Philippine Eagle population.

(b) To facilitate breeding programs and scientific research aimed at understanding and preserving the Philippine Eagle species.

(c) To promote awareness and understanding of the importance of the Philippine Eagle in local ecosystems and global biodiversity through educational programs and exhibits.

(d) To encourage responsible and sustainable tourism practices that contribute to the conservation efforts while benefiting the local community.

Section. 5. Priorities- The PEC shall give priority to the following activities:

(a) Increase the population of Philippine Eagle through natural and scientific breeding;

(b) Protection of the Philippine Eagle's natural habitat;

(c) Spread awareness about the importance of Philippine Eagle conservation through educational programs, outreach activities, and media campaigns;

(d) Prosecute illegal activities such as poaching, trafficking, and habitat destruction that threaten the survival of the Philippine Eagle, ensuring enforcement of relevant laws and regulations to safeguard the species and its habitat.

Section 6. Philippine Eagle Center Advisory Board - The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall appoint the members of the Advisory Board, except for ex-officio members.

(a) Composition: The Philippine Eagle Center Advisory Board shall be composed of the following:

(1) Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) or a representative, as chairman;

(2) Governor of the Province of Bukidnon or a representative, as vice chairman;

(3) Mayor of Manolo Fortich or their representative with expertise in wildlife conservation;

(4) Chancellor or President of Central Mindanao University, or their representative with expertise in wildlife conservation;

(5) Representative from an accredited non-government organization with expertise in wildlife conservation;

(6) Executive Director of the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC);

(7) Head of the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the DENR;

(b) Terms: Members of the Advisory Board, except for ex-officio members, shall serve for a term of three (3) years and may be reappointed.

Section 7. Functions of the Board - The Philippine Eagle Center Advisory Board shall perform the following functions:

(a) Formulate policies, programs, and projects for the development and sustainability of the Philippine Eagle Center;

(b) Review and recommend the annual budget of the Philippine Eagle Center;

(c) Evaluate the implementation, efficiency, and effectiveness of the programs and projects of the Philippine Eagle Center;

(d) Recommend policies and initiatives for the conservation and protection of the Philippine Eagle.

Section 8. Executive Director - The PENRO shall serve as the Executive Director of the PEC. The Executive Director of the PCC shall perform the following functions:

(a) Oversee the implementation of the policies, programs and projects of the PEC;

(b) Assist the PEC Advisory Board in the review, evaluation and monitoring of the PEC plans and programs; and

(c) Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the PEC Advisory Board.

Section 9. Implementation - The DENR in coordination with the provincial government of Bukidnon and the local government unit of Manolo Fortich, shall take the lead in implementing the provisions of this Act, ensuring the attainment of the conservation of the Philippine Eagle and its habitat.

Section 10. Collaborative Partnerships - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the local government of Bukidnon shall collaborate in the establishment and management of the Philippine Eagle Center. To demonstrate their commitment, the Provincial government of Bukidnon and the Municipal government of Manolo Fortich shall provide the necessary manpower complement to ensure effective implementation of PEC plans and programs.

Section 11. Appropriation. – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter. The establishment, operation, and maintenance of the Philippine Eagle Center shall be funded through appropriations of the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

To ensure continuity, sustainability, and effectiveness of the plans and programs, the PEC may receive donations and grants from the private sector and other lawful sources.

Section 12. Effectivity - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.