

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
3rd Regular Session

House Bill No. **10965**



Introduced by Representative ERIC GO YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is guaranteed by the 1987 Constitution that the state has the duty to conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations. A huge part of this mandate includes the utmost preservation and recognition of cultural artifacts and objects. As a nation-state which highly puts accord on the self-determination of its Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICC/IPs), the country is at the forefront of giving recognition as well as promotion of the cultural artifacts and objects, most especially from the ICC/IPs.

The Municipality of Mankayan in the Province of Benguet upholds the culture of playing a wooden instrument called "tal-lac" to drive bad spirits away until the Chinese merchants introduced gong around 1574 and eventually became part of Mankayan's traditions. Thus, gong is not just a mere instrument for the municipality of Mankayan but a link to its past, as well as a vital part of the Igorot community's cultural legacy.

It was in 2020 when the Municipal Government of Mankayan, Province of Benguet unveiled the biggest gong in the country, which has a diameter of 7 feet and weighs 175 kilos. The said monumental gong surpassed another gigantic gong inaugurated in the municipality of Rizal in the Province of Kalinga, which led to Mankayan's gong acclamation as being the biggest gong in the country.

Commonly called as the "gansa", the biggest gong is displayed at the municipality's town hall as a symbol of the Municipality of Mankayan's rich cultural heritage and its reputation as source of top-quality gongs. It is in this regard that its preservation and promotion must be given primordial importance and utmost recognition through the declaration of the Municipality of Mankayan, Province of Benguet as the "Home of the Biggest Gong in the Philippines". Through such declaration, the Department of Tourism will be mandated to feature the Municipality in its regional and national promotion programs, thereby strengthening the socioeconomic viability and cultural enrichment of the Municipality.


HON. ERIC GO YAP

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANKAYAN, PROVINCE OF BENGUET
AS “HOME OF THE BIGGEST GONG IN THE PHILIPPINES”

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

SECTION 1. It is the policy of the state to preserve the country’s cultural artifacts and promote its rich culture and heritage.

The Municipality of Mankayan, Province of Benguet is hereby declared as the “Home of the Biggest Gong in the Philippines”. The monumental gong has a diameter of 7 feet and weighs 175 kilos. Commonly called as the “gansa”, the biggest gong is displayed at the municipality’s town hall as a symbol of the Municipality of Mankayan’s rich cultural heritage and its reputation as source of top-quality gongs.

SEC. 2. The Department of Tourism (DOT) shall feature the Biggest Gong and the rich cultural heritage of the Municipality of Mankayan, Benguet in its regional and national promotion programs.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) shall also cooperate with the DOT in pursuit of the preservation, development and promotion of Philippine arts and culture and in formulation of culture and arts programs and projects, such as for the foregoing cultural artifact or object.

SEC 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,