

TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.*

House Bill No. **1236**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

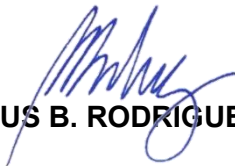
This bill was approved by the House of Representatives during the 19th Congress.

The *Dracontomelon dao* tree or the Dao tree as it is known in the country is a tropical canopy tree that could grow as high as 45 metres or 148 feet. It has a greyish-brown trunk which is branchless up to about 20 m (66 ft) and has narrow buttresses which can reach up its trunk up to 6 m (20 ft) high. This tree is native to the riverine and limestone forests of Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Thailand.

In the Philippines, one of the biggest and oldest Dao tree can be found in Cagayan de Oro City, particularly within a pocket secondary forest in the Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) area of the E. Pelaez Ranch in Bayombong, Barangay Cugman. At present, this Dao tree is 49 meters high and has a diameter of 222.8 centimetres. It is estimated to be more than 200 years old.

It is imperative that the tree be declared the heritage tree of Cagayan de Oro City in order to ensure its long term protection. It can also be an additional tourist attraction for the city.

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


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ


MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.*

House Bill No. **1236**

AN ACT

DISTINGUISHING THE DAO TREE LOCATED WITHIN A SECONDARY FOREST IN THE INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT (IFMA) AREA OF THE E. PELAEZ RANCH IN BAYOMBONG, BARANGAY CUGMAN, CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, AS THE CAGAYAN DE ORO HERITAGE TREE, AND DECLARING IT A TOURIST ATTRACTION

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

SECTION 1. The Dao tree, located within a secondary forest in the Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) area of the E. Pelaez Ranch in Bayombong, Barangay Cugman, Cagayan de Oro City, and which is estimated to be two hundred (200) years old, is hereby declared the "Cagayan de Oro Heritage Tree" and a tourist attraction.

SEC. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the local government of Cagayan de Oro City shall, in coordination with the Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Cagayan de Oro City Cultural Heritage Conservation Council, Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan involving the promotion of the Cagayan de Oro Heritage Tree and the development of its immediate environs as a tourist attraction that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate infrastructure and facilities to enhance tourism in the area: Provided, That said development plan shall ensure the protection and preservation of the Dao tree: Provided further, That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the local government of Cagayan de Oro City.

SEC. 3. The DOT shall assist the local government of Cagayan de Oro City in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include the Dao Tree in all its national and regional promotion programs.

SEC. 4. The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the local government of Cagayan de Oro City. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally-generated funds.

SEC. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the local government of Cagayan de Oro City shall, in consultation with the DOT and concerned agencies of the government, promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 6. All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, presidential decrees and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,