



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
1st Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 2119



Introduced by Rep. Elisa T. Kho and Rep. Antonio T. Kho

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Every April, Masbate's Rodeo Masbateño Festival draws tourists with its cultural events, trade fairs, food exhibits, and thrilling rodeo competitions. For three decades, this festival has showcased the nation's top wranglers, celebrating not just a sport but also the unique Philippine cowboy and cowgirl culture rooted in Masbate's strong ranching tradition.

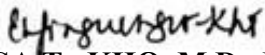
Masbate is known for its skilled rodeo practitioners due to the province's deep connection to cattle raising and horseback riding, which are central to their agricultural lifestyle. This led to Masbate being officially recognized as the "Rodeo Capital of the Philippines" in 2002 (Executive Order No. 20), acknowledging both its rodeo excellence and, more importantly, its thriving cattle industry.

To further solidify this identity, this bill proposes establishing the **Rodeo Center of Masbate** at Dr. Emilio B. Espinosa Sr. Memorial State College of Agriculture and Technology (DEBESMSCAT) in Mandaon, Masbate. This center would serve three main purposes:

1. **Rodeo Academy:** The Rodeo Academy would offer various courses and programs for future animal experts, cowboys/cowgirls, and ranchers.
2. **Research and Development Center:** The Rodeo Masbateño Research Center would conduct livestock research and develop new products like dairy milk.
3. **Rodeo Arena:** The Rodeo Arena would host the annual festival and other events promoting rodeo and the cattle industry.

DEBESMSCAT is the ideal location for the Rodeo Center because its existing functions align perfectly with the center's goals, and it has a long-standing partnership with the province in organizing the Rodeo Masbateño Festival.

Therefore, the approval of this bill is requested.



REP. ELISA T. KHO, M.D., FPCCP



REP. ANTONIO T. KHO



**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City**

**Twentieth Congress
1st Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 2119**

Introduced by Rep. Elisa T. Kho and Rep. Antonio T. Kho

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE RODEO CENTER OF MASBATE, PROVIDING FOR ITS
POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Rodeo Center of Masbate Act of 2025”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the declared policy of the State to foster the preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of national and local culture. As such, the State shall support the establishment of cultural institutions to promote local heritage and identity.

Agriculture is deeply embedded in our local culture, not only as a source of income but also as a way of life for most Filipinos. The State supports the agricultural sector through various means, including the establishment of agriculture support institutions with the capacity for agricultural training, research and development, and extension.

SECTION 3. Objectives. – This Act aims to establish the Rodeo Center of Masbate (RCM), which shall serve as the primary institution in the Province of Masbate dedicated to promoting, preserving, and ensuring the sustainability of Rodeo culture and the local cattle industry.

SECTION 4. The Rodeo Center of Masbate. – The Rodeo Center of Masbate shall be established within the premises of the Dr. Emilio B. Espinosa, Sr. Memorial State College of Agriculture and Technology (DEBESMSCAT) in Mandaon, Masbate. DEBESMSCAT shall supervise and manage the daily operation of the RCM, thereby ensuring that its purpose is attained.

SECTION 5. Powers and Functions of the Rodeo Center. – The Rodeo Center of Masbate shall have the following powers and functions:

a) Education and Training. – The Rodeo Academy shall be created under the RCM and shall offer micro-credential programs, technical-vocational trainings, capacity-building activities, and local and international conferences related to the cattle industry. The Rodeo Academy shall likewise serve as the training ground for the next generation of animal experts, cowboys/cowgirls, and ranchers who will keep the sport of rodeo and the industry and tradition of cattle raising alive.

b) Research and Development. – The Rodeo Masbateño Research Center shall be created under the RCM to undertake livestock studies and develop innovative new products derived from cattle.

c) Tourism Growth. – The Rodeo Arena shall be established under the RCM and shall be the new venue for the Rodeo Masbateño Festival and other activities aimed at promoting the sport of rodeo and the local and national cattle industry.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within three (3) months from the approval of this Act, the Commission on Higher Education shall create a Task Force that will formulate the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act. The Task Force shall be composed of the President of DEBESMSCAT as chairperson and the following as members: Secretary of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) or his/her authorized representative; Secretary of the Department of Tourism or his/her authorized representative; Governor of the Province of Masbate; President of the Rodeo Masbateno Inc. (RMI); and two (2) representatives from the local cattle industry.

SECTION 7. Appropriations. – The appropriation for the establishment and subsequent operation of the RCM shall be included in the annual budget of DEBESMSCAT under the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, any provisions thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force or effect.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,