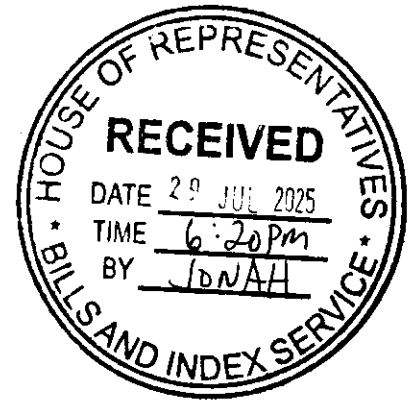




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Twentieth Congress

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2547

Introduced by

HON. REPRESENTATIVE LAARNI LAVIN ROQUE
4TH DISTRICT, BUKIDNON

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 22 Article II of the Philippine Constitution mandates that:

'The State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development.'

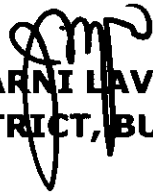
A quick survey of the gains achieved since Republic Act No. 8371 was enacted way back October 29, 1997, otherwise known as, "An Act to Recognize, Protect and Promote the Rights of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples, creating a National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Establishing and Implementing Mechanisms, Appropriating Funds Therefor and for other purposes", would show that proactive actions remain lacking.

It could be accounted for by the fact that our culture is not that rooted in ways that would preserve, enhance and develop what truly are authentically indigenous — not just people but arts and culture as well. Traditional indigenous crafts and products are gradually disappearing; songs, chants, dances, poetry and story-telling are losing ground because no sustained efforts are directed to ensure the survival of these indigenous ways such that these are passed on from generation to generation. The

struggle is not totally lost though. Some local government units in the country are exerting efforts that living, indigenous traditions are sustained. Arts and culture councils endeavor to preserve indigenous folklores and, in the process, enhance and develop these through careful documentation and applying information, education and communication (IEC) strategies.

In the Province of Bukidnon, particularly in the Fourth Legislative District, there is a significant community of indigenous peoples whose way of life, products and crafts are worthy of preservation, enhancement and development. With private sector assistance and help from the academe, these efforts could still multiply. It is for this reason that this measure proposes the establishment of an Indigenous Training Center in the City of Valencia as a hub for the gradual mainstreaming of indigenous arts, crafts and culture.

Given the above premises, the urgent passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. LAARNI LAVIN ROQUE
4TH DISTRICT, BUKIDNON



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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDIGENOUS
TRAINING CENTER IN THE CITY OF VALENCIA, PROVINCE OF
BUKIDNON, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. There is hereby established an Indigenous Training Center in the City of Valencia, Province of Bukidnon.

SEC. 2. The initial funding to carry out this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation and operationalization of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. Repealing Clause. All acts, laws, decrees, executive orders, Letters of Instructions and regulations or any part thereof which are inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* If for any reason any section or provision of this Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions of this Act which are not affected shall continue in full force and effect.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.

Approved.