

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5895



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This House Bill seeks to officially recognize and declare the Province of Bulacan as the "Cradle of Cooperative Movement in the Philippines."

This declaration is rooted in Bulacan's unparalleled historical pioneering role and sustained leadership in the development and promotion of cooperatives across the nation. Bulacan has consistently set the benchmark for local government unit (LGU) support and innovative programs for cooperatives, including the following firsts:

1. First to Create a Dedicated Cooperative Office: Bulacan was the first province in the Philippines to establish a local government office specifically and solely devoted to Cooperative Development. This institutionalized commitment provided a clear model for effective LGU-Cooperative partnership for other provinces to follow.
2. First to Implement a Local Cooperative Training Program: The province was the first to develop and utilize its own local cooperative trainers and educators, ensuring that cooperative education and principles were disseminated effectively and tailored to the needs of its constituents.
3. First to Declare Cooperative Month: Bulacan was the first province to officially declare and celebrate the month of October as Cooperative Month, a practice that was later adopted nationally and observed by cooperatives and government agencies nationwide.
4. First to Implement the Munting Koop Program: In 1993, Bulacan pioneered the Munting Koop Program, which focused on organizing and educating young people about cooperative principles, embedding the cooperative spirit in the next generation.

5. Spearheading Regional Initiatives: The province took the lead in important regional policy discussions, notably by spearheading the first Central Luzon Regional Congress on Gender and Development within the cooperative sector, and advocating for the critical issue of Cooperative Tax Exemption.

The Province of Bulacan's commitment is not just historical; it is a continuously evolving legacy of innovation, institutional support, and community engagement. Granting Bulacan the distinction of the "Cradle of Cooperative Movement in the Philippines" is a fitting recognition of its status as the birthplace and perennial model for cooperative growth, governance, and development, thereby strengthening the foundation of the national cooperative sector.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate consideration and approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5895

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF BULACAN AS THE "CRADLE OF COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES," RECOGNIZING ITS HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Bulacan Cooperative Heritage Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the viability and growth of cooperatives as instruments of equity, social justice, and economic development, as enshrined in the 1987 Philippine Constitution. Furthermore, the State shall recognize and preserve the historical contributions of regions and provinces to the national development narrative.

SEC. 3. *Declaration of the Province of Bulacan as the "Cradle of Cooperative Movement in the Philippines."*

The Province of Bulacan is hereby declared as the "Cradle of Cooperative Movement in the Philippines" in recognition of its historical role and initiatives that paved the way for the formal organization and expansion of the cooperative system throughout the country.

SEC. 4. *Role of Government Agencies.* - The Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), and the Provincial Government of Bulacan shall collaborate to:

- a. Officially integrate this designation into their official communications, educational materials, and historical records.
- b. Support the preservation and marking of historical sites related to the early cooperative movement in the province.
- c. Promote the historical significance of Bulacan's cooperative movement through various commemorative and educational activities.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,