

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 6060

Introduced by Hon. Antonio B. Legarda Jr.

**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE SCHOOLS OF LIVING TRADITIONS (SLT), AND
AMEND FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10066, OR THE "NATIONAL
CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT OF 2009," AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO.
11961, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

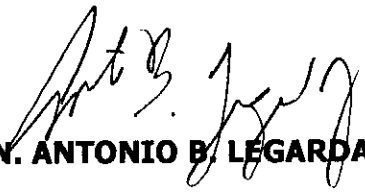
The Constitution mandates the State to conserve and promote the nation's cultural heritage and to recognize and protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to preserve and develop their cultures and traditions. The preservation of intangible cultural heritage—such as oral traditions, rituals, craftsmanship, and indigenous knowledge systems—relies on its active transmission across generations.

The School of Living Traditions (SLT) is a community-based, non-formal cultural education mechanism where cultural masters teach traditional knowledge and practices to the youth through demonstration and immersion. While SLTs have existed as a program under the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) since 1995, their sustainability remains threatened due to the absence of permanent institutional support and funding.

This bill seeks to institutionalize SLTs by amending Republic Act No. 10066, or the "National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009," as amended by RA 11961. It establishes a dedicated Center for Schools of Living Traditions (CSLT) within the NCCA to develop policy, coordinate inter-agency collaboration, and administer support for SLTs nationwide. The measure also mandates the alignment of SLTs with local and national education and cultural systems, ensuring participation of the DepEd, CHED, TESDA, NCIP, and LGUs.

This initiative is consistent with the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, to which the Philippines is a signatory. It promotes non-formal community education, intergenerational knowledge transfer, and culturally appropriate heritage safeguarding with the free and prior informed consent of indigenous communities.

By institutionalizing SLTs, this measure upholds the viability of living traditions and integrates them meaningfully into national heritage policy. In view of these reasons, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought. This bill also serves as the counterpart measure to that filed in the Senate by Senator Loren Legarda.



HON. ANTONIO B. LEGARDA, JR.

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Republic Act No. 10066 or the "National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009," as
2 amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

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"ARTICLE I

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PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES

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ARTICLE X

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CULTURAL EDUCATION

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1 X X X

2 SEC. 42. *Cultural Heritage Education Program*. – The DepEd, the Technical
3 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), X X X

4 X X X

5 **SEC. 42-A. SCHOOL OF LIVING TRADITIONS. – THE SCHOOL OF**
6 **LIVING TRADITIONS (SLT) IS HEREBY INSTITUTIONALIZED AS A**
7 **COMMUNITY-BASED, NON-FORMAL INTERGENERATIONAL**
8 **CULTURAL EDUCATION MECHANISM WHERE CULTURAL MASTERS,**
9 **ELDERS, OR PRACTITIONERS TRANSMIT LIVING TRADITIONS,**
10 **SKILLS, AND VALUES TO YOUNGER GENERATIONS THROUGH**
11 **DEMONSTRATION, PRACTICE, AND IMMERSION IN THE LIVING**
12 **CONTEXT OF THE COMMUNITY.**

13 **THE SLT SHALL BE THE NATIONAL PROGRAM AND FRAMEWORK**
14 **UNDER THE COMMISSION TO ENSURE THE CONTINUITY, VIABILITY,**
15 **AND SUSTAINABILITY OF TRADITIONAL AND INDIGENOUS**
16 **KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS AND PRACTICES.**

17 **THE SLT SHALL FORM PART OF THE NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE**
18 **SAFEGUARDING SYSTEM, WHICH SHALL ENSURE THE VIABILITY,**
19 **CONTINUITY, AND TRANSMISSION OF LIVING TRADITIONS AND**
20 **OTHER FORMS OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE, INCLUDING**
21 **THE IDENTIFICATION, DOCUMENTATION, RESEARCH,**
22 **PRESERVATION, PROTECTION, PROMOTION, ENHANCEMENT, AND**
23 **TRANSMISSION, PARTICULARLY THROUGH FORMAL AND NON-**
24 **FORMAL EDUCATION, AS WELL AS THE REVITALIZATION OF SUCH**
25 **HERITAGE.**

26 **ALL SAFEGUARDING ACTIVITIES SHALL BE CULTURALLY**
27 **APPROPRIATE AND UNDERTAKEN WITH THE FREE AND PRIOR**
28 **INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC) OF RELEVANT CULTURAL GROUPS AND**

1 **INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES.**

2 **AS USED IN THIS ACT, A CULTURAL MASTER REFERS TO A**
3 **RECOGNIZED INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP WHO HAS MASTERED A**
4 **LIVING TRADITION AND IS RECOGNIZED BY THE COMMUNITY TO**
5 **TRANSMIT SUCH KNOWLEDGE OR PRACTICE. LIVING TRADITIONS**
6 **SHALL REFER TO CONTINUING SYSTEMS OF KNOWLEDGE,**
7 **PRACTICES, AND EXPRESSIONS THAT ENCOMPASS ORAL**
8 **TRADITIONS, LANGUAGES, PERFORMING ARTS, SOCIAL PRACTICES,**
9 **RITUALS, FESTIVE EVENTS, TRADITIONAL CRAFTSMANSHIP,**
10 **INDIGENOUS LIVELIHOOD SYSTEMS, AND OTHER COMMUNITY-**
11 **BASED CULTURAL PRACTICES THAT ARE CONTINUALLY**
12 **TRANSMITTED, ADAPTED, AND RECREATED BY COMMUNITIES OVER**
13 **TIME.**

14 **SEC. 42-B. *CENTER FOR SCHOOLS OF LIVING TRADITION.* – A**
15 **CENTER FOR SCHOOLS OF LIVING TRADITIONS (CSLT) IS HEREBY**
16 **CREATED WITHIN THE COMMISSION, WHICH SHALL BE HEADED BY**
17 **A CHIEF. THE CSLT SHALL SERVE AS THE TECHNICAL, RESEARCH,**
18 **COORDINATION, AND MONITORING ARM OF THE SLT PROGRAM.**

19 **THE CSLT SHALL:**

20 **(A) DEVELOP AND UPDATE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES, MANUALS,**
21 **AND MONITORING TOOLS FOR SLT IMPLEMENTATION;**

22 **(B) CONDUCT RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION, AND TRAINING FOR**
23 **CULTURAL MASTERS, COMMUNITY CUSTODIANS AND LOCAL**
24 **PARTNERS;**

25 **(C) MAINTAIN AND REGULARLY UPDATE THE NATIONAL SLT**
26 **DATABASE AND ARCHIVES;**

27 **(D) COORDINATE AND MONITOR PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION**

1 WITH TESDA, DEPED, CHED, NCIP, AND LGUs;

2 (E) ADMINISTER GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND CAPACITY-
3 BUILDING ACTIVITIES FOR CULTURAL MASTERS AND SLT
4 COORDINATORS; AND

5 (F) FACILITATE INTER-REGIONAL EXCHANGE AND MENTORSHIP
6 PROGRAMS AMONG SLTs NATIONWIDE.

7 SEC. 42-C. *LEAD IMPLEMENTING AGENCY.* – THE COMMISSION
8 SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OVERALL COORDINATION,
9 POLICY DIRECTION, AND SUPERVISION OF THE SLT PROGRAM. IN
10 THIS CAPACITY, IT SHALL:

11 (A) FORMULATE AND ADOPT NATIONAL POLICIES, GUIDELINES,
12 AND STANDARDS FOR THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF SLTs;

13 (B) ENSURE ALIGNMENT OF SLT PROGRAMS WITH NATIONAL
14 CULTURAL HERITAGE SAFEGUARDING FRAMEWORKS;

15 (C) ALLOCATE AND ADMINISTER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND
16 GRANTS FOR ACCREDITED SLTs AND THEIR CULTURAL MASTERS;

17 (D) OVERSEE INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION AND
18 COLLABORATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL;

19 (E) ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE FPIC OF INDIGENOUS AND
20 LOCAL COMMUNITIES, IN COORDINATION WITH THE NCIP;

21 (F) MONITOR AND EVALUATE THE IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT
22 OF SLT PROGRAMS NATIONWIDE; AND

23 (G) PREPARE THE STAFFING PATTERN OF THE CSLT, SUBJECT TO
24 THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND
25 MANAGEMENT AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING LAWS, RULES
26 AND REGULATIONS.

SEC. 42-D. *INTER-AGENCY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION.* – THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES SHALL WORK IN COORDINATION WITH THE COMMISSION:

(A) NCIP – TO FACILITATE COMMUNITY CONSENT AND SAFEGUARD THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES;

(B) DEPED – TO INTEGRATE SLT METHODOLOGIES AND COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE INTO THE CULTURE-BASED LEARNING SYSTEMS;

(C) CHED – TO ENCOURAGE RESEARCH, ACADEMIC LINKAGES, AND HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT LIVING TRADITIONS AND COMMUNITY-BASED PEDAGOGY;

(D) TESDA – TO HARMONIZE SLT CRAFT AND SKILLS TRAINING WITH TESDA’S CULTURE-BASED TRAINING REGULATIONS, ENSURING RESPECT FOR CULTURAL AUTHENTICITY WHILE SUPPORTING COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS;

(E) DILG – TO DIRECT LGUs TO INTEGRATE SLT PROGRAMS INTO LOCAL CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND PROVIDE LOGISTICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT; AND

(F) LGUs – TO ALLOCATE FUNDS, DESIGNATE COMMUNITY CUSTODIANS OR LOCAL PARTNERS, AND PROVIDE SPACES OR FACILITIES FOR SLT ACTIVITIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL CULTURE AND ARTS COUNCILS.

xxx."

SECTION 2. Appropriations. – The initial funding necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary for the

1 continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General
2 Appropriations Act (GAA).

3 The concerned LGUs shall likewise allocate and charge the amounts necessary for the
4 implementation of this Act against their respective local funds.

5 **SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within ninety (90) days from the
6 effectivity of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with other agencies and
7 representatives of indigenous and local communities shall promulgate the rules and
8 regulations necessary for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

9 **SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.*** - Any portion or provision of this Act that may be
10 declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or provisions
11 hereof as such remaining provisions can still subsist and be given effect.

12 **SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters
13 of instruction, proclamations, or administrative orders, rules or regulations or parts
14 thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
15 modified accordingly.

16 **SECTION 6. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its
17 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,