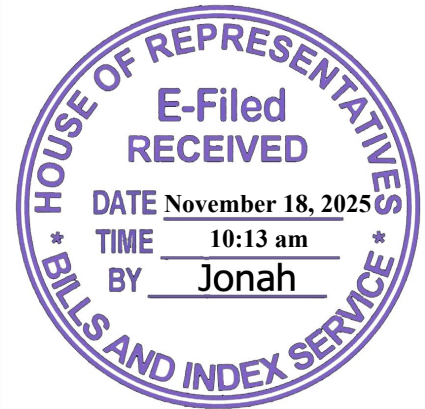


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6092



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE SCHOOLS OF LIVING TRADITIONS (SLT),
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10066, OR THE “NATIONAL CULTURAL
HERITAGE ACT OF 2009,” AS AMENDED AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines boasts a vibrant array of intangible cultural heritage, encompassing oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, traditional craftsmanship, and indigenous livelihood systems, all passed down through generations. This rich legacy highlights the deep cultural roots and diverse expressions of the Filipino people.

However, these invaluable living traditions are increasingly vulnerable to external pressures such as modernization, shifting migration patterns, and cultural homogenization¹.

To address this, the Schools of Living Traditions (SLTs) were established by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) in 1995 as a community-based, non-formal educational space where cultural masters share their traditional knowledge and skills to younger generations through practice and immersion. Today, there are hundreds of SLTs nationwide², safeguarding heritage elements, including weaving, music, oral literature, and indigenous languages. In 2021, SLTs were recognized internationally through their inclusion

¹ Cultural homogenization refers to the phenomenon where local cultures are transformed and absorbed by a dominant outside culture, resulting in a convergence of cultural practices, values, and traditions.

² 461 based on NCCA's list but needs to be updated: <https://ncca.gov.ph/school-of-living-traditions/list-of-schools-of-living-tradition/>

in UNESCO's Register of Good Safeguarding Practices, affirming their role in preserving intangible cultural heritage³.

Institutionalizing SLTs through legislation ensures their sustainability and integration into the national cultural heritage safeguarding system. This proposed measure will provide a legal framework for funding, coordination, and monitoring, while guaranteeing the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) of indigenous communities. It will also strengthen partnerships with agencies such as DepEd, TESDA, CHED, and LGUs to harmonize SLT programs with education and livelihood initiatives.

The importance of SLTs is evident in their impact on communities. For example, in Songco, Lantapan, Bukidnon, an SLT was launched in October 2022 at the foot of Mt. Kitanglad. Supported by then Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri, a two-story SLT facility serves as a cultural hub where Talaandig elders teach traditional music, dance, folklore, and history to children as young as five years old. This initiative not only preserves cultural identity but also fosters intergenerational learning and community pride⁴.

By institutionalizing SLTs, we safeguard the continuity of indigenous knowledge systems, empower cultural communities, and promote sustainable development through heritage-based education and livelihoods. This proposed measure is a vital step toward ensuring that the living traditions of the Filipino people remain vibrant and accessible for future generations.

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


AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI
Representative, 3rd District of Bukidnon

³ <https://ich.unesco.org/en/BSP/the-school-of-living-traditions-slt-01739>

⁴ <https://mindanews.com/arts-culture/2022/10/school-of-living-traditions-opens-in-bukidnon-village/>

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THEREFOR

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

Section 1. Republic Act No. 10066 or the “National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009,”
as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“ARTICLE I

PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES

x x x

ARTICLE X

CULTURAL EDUCATION

x x x

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

SEC. 42-A. *SCHOOL OF LIVING TRADITIONS.* – **THE SCHOOL**
OF LIVING TRADITIONS (SLT) IS HEREBY
INSTITUTIONALIZED AS A COMMUNITY-BASED, NON-
FORMAL INTERGENERATIONAL CULTURAL EDUCATION
MECHANISM WHERE CULTURAL MASTERS, ELDERS, OR
PRACTITIONERS TRANSMIT LIVING TRADITIONS,

1 SKILLS, AND VALUES TO YOUNGER GENERATIONS
2 THROUGH DEMONSTRATION, PRACTICE, AND
3 IMMERSION IN THE LIVING CONTEXT OF THE
4 COMMUNITY.

5
6 THE SLT SHALL BE THE NATIONAL PROGRAM AND
7 FRAMEWORK UNDER THE COMMISSION TO ENSURE THE
8 CONTINUITY, VIABILITY, AND SUSTAINABILITY OF
9 TRADITIONAL AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS
10 AND PRACTICES.

11
12 THE SLT SHALL FORM PART OF THE NATIONAL
13 CULTURAL HERITAGE SAFEGUARDING SYSTEM, WHICH
14 SHALL ENSURE THE VIABILITY, CONTINUITY, AND
15 TRANSMISSION OF LIVING TRADITIONS AND OTHER
16 FORMS OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE,
17 INCLUDING THE IDENTIFICATION, DOCUMENTATION,
18 RESEARCH, PRESERVATION, PROTECTION, PROMOTION,
19 ENHANCEMENT, AND TRANSMISSION, PARTICULARLY
20 THROUGH FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION, AS
21 WELL AS THE REVITALIZATION OF SUCH HERITAGE.

22
23 ALL SAFEGUARDING ACTIVITIES SHALL BE
24 CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE AND UNDERTAKEN WITH THE
25 FREE AND PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC) OF
26 RELEVANT CULTURAL GROUPS AND INDIGENOUS
27 COMMUNITIES.

28
29 AS USED IN THIS ACT, A CULTURAL MASTER REFERS
30 TO A RECOGNIZED INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP WHO HAS
31 MASTERED A LIVING TRADITION AND IS RECOGNIZED BY
32 THE COMMUNITY TO TRANSMIT SUCH KNOWLEDGE OR
33 PRACTICE. LIVING TRADITIONS SHALL REFER TO
34 CONTINUING SYSTEMS OF KNOWLEDGE, PRACTICES, AND

1 EXPRESSIONS THAT ENCOMPASS ORAL TRADITIONS,
2 LANGUAGES, PERFORMING ARTS, SOCIAL PRACTICES,
3 RITUALS, FESTIVE EVENTS, TRADITIONAL
4 CRAFTSMANSHIP, INDIGENOUS LIVELIHOOD SYSTEMS,
5 AND OTHER COMMUNITY-BASED CULTURAL PRACTICES
6 THAT ARE CONTINUALLY TRANSMITTED, ADAPTED, AND
7 RECREATED BY COMMUNITIES OVER TIME.

8
9 SEC. 42-B. CENTER FOR SCHOOLS OF LIVING
10 TRADITION. – A CENTER FOR SCHOOLS OF LIVING
11 TRADITIONS (CSLT) IS HEREBY CREATED WITHIN THE
12 COMMISSION, WHICH SHALL BE HEADED BY A CHIEF. THE
13 CSLT SHALL SERVE AS THE TECHNICAL, RESEARCH,
14 COORDINATION, AND MONITORING ARM OF THE SLT
15 PROGRAM.

16
17 THE CSLT SHALL:

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

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

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

26 (D) COORDINATE AND MONITOR PROGRAM
27 IMPLEMENTATION WITH TESDA, DEPED, CHED, NCIP, AND
28 LGUs;

29 (E) ADMINISTER GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND
30 CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES FOR CULTURAL
31 MASTERS AND SLT COORDINATORS; AND

32 (F) FACILITATE INTER-REGIONAL EXCHANGE AND
33 MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS AMONG SLTs NATIONWIDE.
34

1 **SEC. 42-C. *SLT PROGRAM LEAD IMPLEMENTING***
2 ***AGENCY.* – THE COMMISSION SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR**
3 **THE OVERALL COORDINATION, POLICY DIRECTION, AND**
4 **SUPERVISION. IN THIS CAPACITY, IT SHALL:**

5
6 **(A) FORMULATE AND ADOPT NATIONAL POLICIES,**
7 **GUIDELINES, AND STANDARDS FOR THE**
8 **INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF SLTs;**

9 **(B) ENSURE ALIGNMENT OF SLT PROGRAMS WITH**
10 **NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE SAFEGUARDING**
11 **FRAMEWORKS;**

12 **(C) ALLOCATE AND ADMINISTER FINANCIAL**
13 **ASSISTANCE AND GRANTS FOR ACCREDITED SLTs AND**
14 **THEIR CULTURAL MASTERS;**

15 **(D) OVERSEE INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION AND**
16 **COLLABORATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL;**

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

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

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

26
27 **SEC. 42-D. *SLT INTER-AGENCY AND LOCAL***
28 ***GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION.* – THE FOLLOWING**
29 **AGENCIES SHALL WORK IN COORDINATION WITH THE**
30 **COMMISSION:**

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

34 **(B) DEPED – TO INTEGRATE SLT METHODOLOGIES**

1 AND COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE INTO THE CULTURE-
2 BASED LEARNING SYSTEMS;

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

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

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

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

21 x x x.”

22 **SEC. 2. Appropriations.** — The initial amount necessary to implement the provisions
23 of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriations of the Commission.
24 Thereafter, such amount necessary to effectively carry out the provisions of this Act shall be
25 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

26
27 The concerned LGUs shall likewise allocate and charge the amounts necessary for the
28 implementation of this Act against their respective local funds.

29
30 **SEC. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** — The Commission, in consultation
31 with other agencies, and representatives of indigenous and local communities shall, within
32 ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the rules and regulations to
33 effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

34

1 **SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional,
2 the remainder hereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

3
4 **SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of
5 instruction, proclamations, administrative orders, rules, or regulations that are inconsistent
6 with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

7
8 **SEC. 6. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
9 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

10
 Approved,