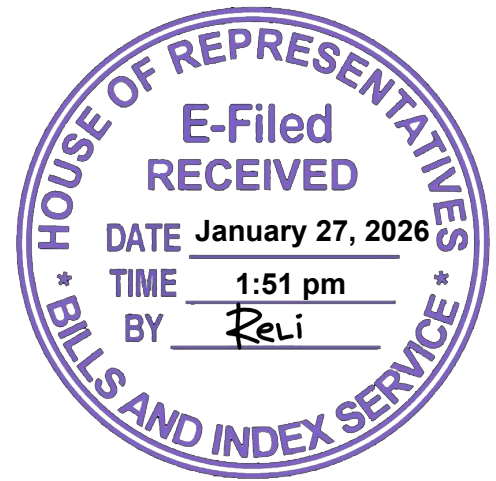


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **7396**



Introduced by Representative ERIC G. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Municipality of Mankayan, Province of Benguet as the “Home of the Biggest Gong in the Philippines”, in recognition of a cultural artifact that reflects the rich traditions, identity, and craftsmanship of the people of Mankayan. The gong, locally known as “*Gangsa*”, measures seven feet in diameter and weighs 175 kilograms. The gong is displayed at the municipal town hall of Mankayan, Benguet where it stands as a living symbol of Mankayan’s long-standing tradition of gong-making and its reputation as a source of top-quality gongs in the country.

This legislative proposal aligns with Republic Act No. 10066, otherwise known as the “*National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009*”, to preserve intangible cultural heritage which includes cultural artifacts, and to promote the diverse cultural expressions of the Filipino people, particularly those rooted in indigenous communities. Furthermore, this measure directs the Department of Tourism, in coordination with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, to feature the Biggest Gong and the cultural heritage of Mankayan in regional and national promotion programs.

The declaration of Mankayan as the Home of the Biggest Gong in the Philippines not only recognizes its cultural significance, but also honors both the cultural symbol and the people who continue to safeguard its meaning and legacy, and strengthen local pride in a tradition that has been preserved and passed down through generations.

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

HON. ERIC G. YAP

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **7396**

Introduced by Representative ERIC G. YAP

AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANKAYAN, PROVINCE OF
BENGUET AS “HOME OF THE BIGGEST GONG IN THE PHILIPPINES”

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

Section 1. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to conserve, protect, and promote the nation’s cultural heritage and cultural properties as an expression of the Filipino people’s identity, history, and creativity. The State recognizes that cultural artifacts, indigenous knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions are vital to nation-building, social cohesion, and sustainable development.

Towards this end, the State shall support initiatives that recognize significant cultural artifacts, promote cultural awareness, encourage cultural tourism, and strengthen inter-agency cooperation to preserve and transmit cultural heritage to present and future generations.

SEC. 2. *Mankayan as the Home of the Biggest Gong in the Philippines.* — The Municipality of Mankayan, Province of Benguet, which houses the “Gangsa”, is hereby declared as the “Home of the Biggest Gong in the Philippines” which houses the “Gangsa”.

The “Gangsa”, a monumental gong that has a seven (7) feet diameter and weighs one hundred and seventy five (175) kilograms, shall be displayed at the municipality’s town hall as a symbol of the Municipality of Mankayan’s rich cultural heritage and its reputation as source of top-quality gongs.

SEC. 3. *Role of DOT and NCCA.* — The Department of Tourism (DOT) shall feature the Biggest Gong and the rich cultural heritage of the Municipality of Mankayan, Benguet in its regional and national promotion programs.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) shall also cooperate with the DOT in pursuit of the preservation, development and promotion

of Philippine arts and culture and in formulation of culture and arts programs and projects, such as for the foregoing cultural artifact or object.

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* — If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,