



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

20th CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9055



Introduced by Representative SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY IN THE LONE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE
PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO DEL NORTE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a modern library in the Lone Legislative District of the Province of Maguindanao del Norte to promote equal access to information, information resources, and educational opportunities, free of charge.

Republic Act No. 7743, otherwise known as an "Act Providing for the Establishment of Congressional, City, and Municipal Libraries and Barangay Reading Centers, Throughout the Philippines, Appropriating the Necessary Funds Therefor and For Other Purposes," was enacted on June 17, 1994, and yet only a small fraction of the intended number of libraries and/or reading centers have so far been established throughout the country since then.

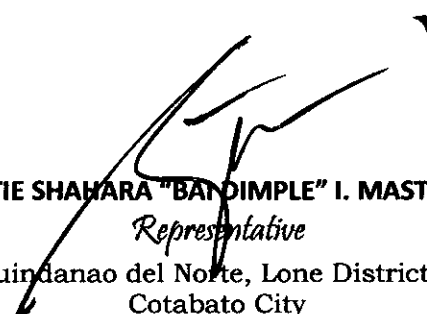
As per records of the National Library of the Philippines, there are only 1,660 public libraries and reading centers as of December 2023, or a mere 3% of the total number of barangays, cities, and municipalities.

In hindsight, advances in information and communications technology have, in fact, increasingly put into question the relevance of physical libraries as repositories of books and resources; however, as centers for learning, libraries remain indispensable for several reasons.

Physical libraries curate and validate information, ensure its accuracy, reliability, and relevance, functions that are crucial in an era of misinformation and fake news. Libraries also serve as inclusive spaces where individuals of diverse backgrounds can gather, interact, and exchange ideas, fostering social cohesion and community engagement.

For Mindanaoans in general and the people of Maguindanao del Norte in particular, we believe that a library can greatly help us in the promotion and preservation of our cultural heritage through the collection of books, manuscripts, archives, and other literary artifacts.

In view of the above, passage of this proposed measure is earnestly sought.



SITTIE SHAHARA "BANDIMPLE" I. MASTURA

Representative

Maguindanao del Norte, Lone District with
Cotabato City



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

SECTION 1. There shall be established in the Lone Legislative District of the Province of Maguindanao del Norte, with Cotabato City, a library under the direct control and supervision of the National Library of the Philippines (NLP), to be named the "Congressional Library of the Province of Maguindanao del Norte". The library shall be located in the Municipality of Sultan Kudarat, Province of Maguindanao del Norte.

SEC. 2. In addition to the conditions provided under Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7743, the establishment of the Congressional Library of the Province of Maguindanao del Norte shall be based on the latest computer and electronic library technology with complete standard sets of books and other materials as mandated under Section 3 of the same Act, including highspeed internet access, computers and workstations, digital collections, interactive technologies, maker spaces, innovative labs, and other technology-based functions.

SEC. 3. The Director of NLP shall appoint the following to manage the Congressional Library of the Province of Maguindanao del Norte, to wit:

- (a) Librarian III
- (b) Librarian I
- (c) Administrative Assistant III
- (d) Computer File Librarian I
- (e) Administrative Aide VI; and,
- (f) Watchman (Security Guard)

The appointments to such positions shall be in accordance with the Compensation and Position Classification System and other civil service rules and regulations. In addition, their salaries and allowances shall be in accordance with Republic Act No. 11466, otherwise known as the "Salary Standardization Law of 2019," and other applicable laws.

SEC. 4. The NLP shall include in its program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NLP shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules and regulations as well as local ordinances contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,