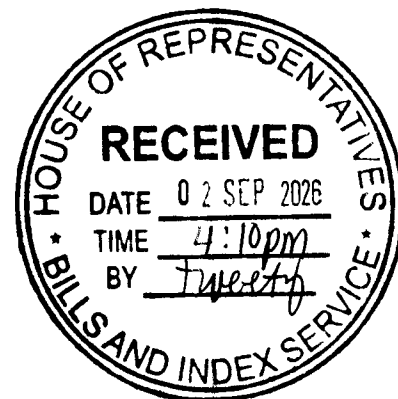




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11094



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is a nation blessed with diverse cultures, traditions, and artistic expressions that form an essential part of its national identity. Among the cultural traditions that deserve recognition, protection, and sustained government support is the rich weaving heritage of the Yakan people of Mindanao.

Yakan weaving is more than the production of textiles. It is a living expression of identity, history, spirituality, artistry, and community. Through intricate patterns, colors, techniques, and processes passed down from one generation to another, Yakan master weavers preserve knowledge that cannot simply be replaced by modern technology or reproduced through mass production. Their craft represents generations of accumulated knowledge and serves as an important link between the Yakan past, present, and future.

Despite the cultural significance of Yakan weaving, traditional weavers continue to face challenges that threaten the continuity of this heritage. These include the declining number of younger practitioners, the increasing difficulty of obtaining traditional materials, limited access to sustainable markets, inadequate spaces for teaching and production, and the risk of cultural knowledge and designs being commercially reproduced without sufficient recognition or benefit to the communities that created and preserved them.

The State has a constitutional and statutory responsibility to protect and promote the country's cultural heritage. Republic Act No. 7355, or the Manlilikha ng Bayan Act, recognizes traditional artists, including those engaged in weaving, and provides for the preservation and transmission of traditional artistic skills to future generations. The National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009 likewise provides for the protection, conservation, and promotion of the nation's cultural heritage.

The establishment of a Yakan Weaving Cultural Center in Zamboanga City will provide a permanent institution dedicated to preserving, promoting, and transmitting Yakan weaving traditions. The Center will serve not merely as a museum or exhibition space, but as a living cultural institution where master weavers can teach, apprentices can learn, researchers can document traditional knowledge, and the public can gain a deeper appreciation of Yakan culture.

The proposed Center shall establish a Yakan Master Weaver Program that will recognize qualified master weavers and provide them with appropriate support and compensation for serving as cultural mentors. It shall likewise establish apprenticeship programs that provide young

members of the Yakan community with training, materials, and opportunities to develop their skills under the guidance of experienced practitioners.

The measure further seeks to protect Yakan traditional knowledge, designs, motifs, techniques, and other cultural expressions from unauthorized use and inappropriate commercialization. At the same time, it will provide opportunities for weavers and their cooperatives to obtain fair and sustainable economic returns from their work through market development, exhibitions, trade fairs, cultural tourism, and other appropriate livelihood programs.

Importantly, the proposed Center shall operate with the meaningful participation of the Yakan community. Master weavers, elders, cultural practitioners, and community representatives shall have a voice in determining how their traditions are documented, taught, exhibited, and promoted. Cultural knowledge that is sacred, restricted, or otherwise inappropriate for public dissemination shall be respected and protected.

The establishment of the Yakan Weaving Cultural Center in Zamboanga City will therefore contribute not only to cultural preservation but also to education, livelihood generation, youth development, responsible tourism, and intercultural understanding. More importantly, it will affirm the value of the Yakan master weavers whose dedication has allowed an important part of Mindanao's cultural heritage to survive across generations.

This measure recognizes that preserving cultural heritage requires more than remembering the past. It requires creating conditions in which cultural traditions can continue to be practiced, taught, respected, and sustained by the communities that carry them.

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


KATRINA REIKO CHUA-TAI



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HOUSE BILL NO. 11094

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE KATRINA REIKO CHUA-TAI**

1 **AN ACT**
2 **ESTABLISHING THE YAKAN WEAVING CULTURAL CENTER IN ZAMBOANGA**
3 **CITY, PROVIDING FOR ITS FUNCTIONS, ADMINISTRATION, PROGRAMS, AND**
4 **APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

5
6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
7 *Congress assembled:*
8

9 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “**Yakan Weaving Cultural**
10 **Center Act.**”

11 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize,
12 preserve, protect, promote, and develop the cultural heritage of the Yakan people, particularly their
13 traditional weaving practices, knowledge, techniques, designs, and cultural expressions.

14 The State recognizes Yakan weaving as a significant component of the cultural heritage of
15 Mindanao and acknowledges the master weavers and cultural bearers who have preserved and
16 transmitted this knowledge across generations.

17 Pursuant to the Constitution and existing laws on cultural heritage, the State shall support
18 the continued practice of Yakan weaving while ensuring that its commercialization,
19 documentation, promotion, and development respect the cultural rights, dignity, traditions, and
20 interests of the Yakan community.

1 SEC. 3. ***Establishment of the Yakan Weaving Cultural Center.*** – There is hereby
2 established a Yakan Weaving Cultural Center, hereinafter referred to as the Center, which shall be
3 located in Zamboanga City.

4 The Center shall serve as a permanent institution dedicated to the preservation, teaching,
5 documentation, promotion, and sustainable development of Yakan weaving and related cultural
6 traditions.

7 The Center shall function as a cultural, educational, research, exhibition, and livelihood
8 institution for Yakan master weavers, apprentices, cultural practitioners, researchers, students, and
9 the public.

10 SEC. 4. ***Objectives.*** – The Center shall pursue the following objectives:

- 11 a. To preserve and promote traditional Yakan weaving, including *tennun* and other
12 culturally significant textile traditions;
- 13 b. To recognize and honor Yakan master weavers as bearers of traditional knowledge
14 and cultural heritage;
- 15 c. To provide master weavers with appropriate facilities, financial support, and
16 opportunities to teach and transmit their skills to younger generations;
- 17 d. To establish apprenticeship and mentorship programs for Yakan youth;
- 18 e. To document and preserve traditional weaving techniques, patterns, motifs,
19 materials, terminology, stories, and related cultural knowledge, subject to the
20 cultural protocols and consent of the Yakan community;
- 21 f. To provide sustainable livelihood and market opportunities for Yakan weavers;
- 22 g. To protect the intellectual and cultural property rights of Yakan communities and
23 traditional artists;
- 24 h. To promote public awareness and appreciation of Yakan cultural heritage:

- i. To encourage academic research and responsible cultural tourism relating to Yakan weaving; and
- j. To strengthen the role of Zamboanga City as a center for the preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of Mindanao.

SEC. 5. ***Powers and Functions.*** – The Center shall have the following functions:

- a. Establish and maintain facilities for traditional weaving, training, exhibitions, research, documentation, and cultural education;
- b. Establish a Yakan Master Weaver Program through which qualified master weavers may be engaged as cultural mentors and instructors;
- c. Establish a Yakan Weaving Apprenticeship Program that shall provide training allowances, materials, and other forms of support to qualified apprentices;
- d. Establish a permanent museum and exhibition space showcasing Yakan textiles, weaving tools, historical materials, and other cultural objects;
- e. Establish an archive and digital repository for documentation of Yakan weaving traditions, subject to applicable cultural protocols and intellectual-property protections;
- f. Organize workshops, lectures, demonstrations, exhibitions, cultural festivals, and other educational activities;
- g. Facilitate partnerships with schools, universities, museums, cultural institutions, indigenous peoples' organizations, and other relevant institutions;
- h. Assist Yakan weavers and cooperatives in product development, packaging, marketing, and access to domestic and international markets without compromising cultural authenticity;
- i. Develop programs that promote fair compensation for Yakan weavers and prevent exploitative commercial practices;

- 1 j. Facilitate participation of Yakan master weavers in national and international
- 2 cultural exhibitions and events;
- 3 k. Conduct or support research on Yakan weaving and related cultural traditions; and
- 4 l. Perform such other functions as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of
- 5 this Act.

6 SEC. 6. ***Yakan Master Weaver Program.*** — The Center shall establish a Yakan Master

7 Weaver Program to recognize and support individuals who have demonstrated exceptional

8 knowledge, technical skill, artistic excellence, and commitment to preserving Yakan weaving

9 traditions.

10 Qualified master weavers shall be entitled to:

- 11 a. Honoraria or regular teaching compensation for conducting classes and
- 12 apprenticeships;
- 13 b. Grants for weaving materials, tools, and equipment;
- 14 c. Assistance for documentation and preservation of their works and techniques;
- 15 d. Opportunities to participate in government-sponsored exhibitions and cultural
- 16 programs;
- 17 e. Access to livelihood, entrepreneurship, and market-development programs; and
- 18 f. Such other benefits as may be provided by the governing council pursuant to this
- 19 Act.

20 Nothing in this section shall be construed as automatically conferring upon any individual

21 the title or benefits of Manlilikha ng Bayan, which shall remain subject to Republic Act No. 7355

22 and its implementing rules.

23 SEC. 7. ***Yakan Weaving Apprenticeship Program.*** — The Center shall establish an

24 apprenticeship program for qualified members of the Yakan community, particularly young people

25 who wish to learn traditional weaving.

1 The program shall provide:

- 2 a. Training allowances;
- 3 b. Weaving materials and equipment;
- 4 c. Instruction by recognized Yakan master weavers;
- 5 d. Educational and cultural activities;
- 6 e. Opportunities for supervised production and exhibitions; and
- 7 f. Assistance in establishing sustainable livelihoods after completion of the
- 8 apprenticeship.

9 The Center shall prioritize the intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge
10 within the Yakan community.

11 **SEC. 8. *Cultural and Intellectual Property Protection.*** — The Center shall adopt measures
12 to protect Yakan traditional knowledge, cultural expressions, designs, patterns, motifs, and
13 weaving techniques from unauthorized reproduction, misrepresentation, or commercial
14 exploitation.

15 No culturally sensitive knowledge, design, pattern, image, or documentation shall be
16 publicly reproduced or commercially used without appropriate consultation with and, where
17 required, free, prior, and informed consent of the concerned Yakan community or cultural
18 knowledge holders.

19 The Center shall coordinate with appropriate government agencies to assist communities
20 and individual weavers in protecting their intellectual and cultural property rights.

21 **SEC. 9. *Community Participation.*** — The operation and development of the Center shall
22 be undertaken with the meaningful participation of the Yakan community.

23 Yakan master weavers, elders, cultural practitioners, youth representatives, and appropriate
24 community organizations shall be consulted in the development of the Center's programs,
25 exhibitions, documentation policies, educational materials, and commercialization activities.

26 The Center shall respect cultural protocols concerning knowledge or practices that are
27 sacred, restricted, private, or otherwise inappropriate for public dissemination.

1 SEC. 10. *Yakan Weaving Museum and Archive.* — The Center shall establish and
2 maintain a museum and archive containing, among others:

- 3 a. Traditional Yakan textiles;
- 4 b. Works of master weavers;
- 5 c. Traditional looms, tools, and weaving implements;
- 6 d. Photographs, audiovisual materials, and oral histories;
- 7 e. Documentation of traditional techniques and processes;
- 8 f. Historical records and scholarly materials; and
- 9 g. Other materials relevant to the preservation of Yakan weaving heritage.

10 The collection shall be maintained according to appropriate conservation standards and
11 cultural protocols.

12 SEC. 11. *Livelihood and Market Development.* — The Center, in coordination with
13 appropriate government agencies, shall develop programs that enable Yakan weavers and
14 cooperatives to obtain fair and sustainable economic returns from their work.

15 Such programs may include:

- 16 a. Skills and entrepreneurship training;
- 17 b. Cooperative development;
- 18 c. Access to financing;
- 19 d. Assistance in obtaining raw materials;
- 20 e. Product development consistent with Yakan cultural traditions;
- 21 f. Domestic and international market access;
- 22 g. Participation in trade fairs and cultural exhibitions; and
- 23 h. Development of certification or labeling mechanisms identifying authentic Yakan-
24 produced textiles.

25 The commercialization of Yakan textiles shall not be undertaken in a manner that
26 diminishes their cultural significance or deprives traditional artists and communities of fair
27 compensation.

SEC. 12. ***Governance.*** — The Center shall be administered by a Yakan Weaving Cultural Council, which shall be composed of representatives from:

- a. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA);
- b. The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP);
- c. The City Government of Zamboanga;
- d. The Department of Tourism (DOT);
- e. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
- f. The Department of Education (DepEd);
- g. Relevant higher education institutions; and
- h. At least three (3) representatives of the Yakan community, including recognized master weavers and cultural practitioners.

The Yakan representatives shall constitute a substantial voice in decisions directly affecting cultural programs, traditional knowledge, documentation, exhibitions, and commercialization.

SEC. 13. ***Responsibilities of the Council.*** — The Council shall:

- a. Formulate the Center's strategic plans and policies;
- b. Approve programs for the preservation and transmission of Yakan weaving;
- c. Establish criteria for recognizing master weavers and apprentices;
- d. Ensure appropriate use and protection of cultural materials;
- e. Monitor the Center's finances and programs;
- f. Establish partnerships with public and private institutions; and
- g. Submit an annual report to the appropriate committees of Congress and relevant government agencies.

SEC. 14. ***Partnerships.*** — The Center may enter into partnerships with universities, museums, cultural organizations, private foundations, international organizations, development institutions, and other entities for research, training, conservation, exhibitions, and other activities consistent with this Act.

1 All partnerships involving Yakan cultural knowledge or cultural expressions shall comply
2 with applicable laws and community cultural protocols.

3 SEC. 15. **Appropriations.** — The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall
4 be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment and every year
5 thereafter.

6 The NCCA, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management, shall
7 identify and recommend the initial funding requirements for the establishment and operation of
8 the Center.

9 The City Government of Zamboanga may provide additional funding, land, facilities,
10 personnel, or other resources for the implementation of this Act.

11 SEC. 16. **Separability Clause.** — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
12 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

13 SEC. 17. **Repealing Clause.** — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, regulations, and
14 other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or
15 modified accordingly.

16 SEC. 18. **Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
17 the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

18 **Approved,**