



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives

Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 11098

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is a nation whose cultural identity is woven from the traditions, knowledge, artistry, ingenuity, and living heritage of its diverse peoples. Among these important cultural traditions is the distinctive weaving heritage of the Yakan people of Mindanao. Yakan weaving is not merely the manufacture of cloth. It is an ancestral cultural practice through which knowledge, craftsmanship, identity, symbolism, artistry, and community values are transmitted from one generation to another.

The National Museum of the Philippines has documented weaving as an extremely important craft in the Yakan community and has recognized the intergenerational transmission of weaving knowledge, particularly from mothers to daughters. Its documentation describes *tennun*, or traditional Yakan woven cloth, as a product of highly developed weaving techniques using traditional looms and intricate patterns and designs. The knowledge required to produce these textiles encompasses not only technical skill but also an understanding of the cultural meanings attached to particular designs, motifs, colors, and patterns.

The exact historical date when Yakan weaving first began is not established by available authoritative historical documentation. It is therefore more appropriate to characterize Yakan weaving as an ancestral and intergenerational cultural tradition rather than assign an unsupported date of origin. What is firmly established, however, is the depth of the tradition and its continuing transmission through generations of Yakan weavers. The preservation of Yakan weaving must consequently extend beyond the preservation of finished textiles and must include the preservation of the people, knowledge, techniques, cultural meanings, and community practices that sustain the tradition.

The continued survival of Yakan weaving faces challenges arising from changing economic conditions, limited access to raw materials and appropriate equipment, insufficient business and financial-management knowledge, limited access to markets, competition from mass-produced textiles, and the difficulty of transmitting specialized weaving knowledge to younger generations. These challenges demonstrate the need for a comprehensive government policy that treats Yakan weaving not only as cultural heritage but also as a living practice capable of providing sustainable and dignified livelihoods for Yakan communities.

Republic Act No. 10066, otherwise known as the "National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009," as amended by Republic Act No. 11961, provides an important national framework for the protection, conservation, preservation, and promotion of Philippine cultural heritage. The

implementing rules and regulations of the amended law emphasize the harmonization and rationalization of laws, rules, regulations, and government mechanisms relating to cultural heritage and provide for implementation in a manner that favors the conservation, preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of Filipino culture. This proposed measure is therefore deliberately designed to complement, rather than duplicate or compete with, the existing national cultural-heritage framework.

The proposed measure recognizes that the preservation of Yakan weaving requires the preservation of the cultural bearers who possess the knowledge and skills necessary to continue the tradition. For this reason, the bill provides for the recognition of Yakan Master Weavers and establishes a Master Weaver Teaching and Apprenticeship Program. Recognized master weavers shall be supported not only as artisans but also as teachers, mentors, cultural bearers, and community leaders responsible for transmitting traditional weaving knowledge to apprentices and succeeding generations.

The bill further recognizes that mastery of weaving does not necessarily include the business knowledge required to operate and expand a modern enterprise. A highly skilled master weaver may nevertheless face difficulties in costing and pricing products, maintaining financial records, managing cash flow, preparing business plans, obtaining financing, complying with regulatory requirements, developing digital marketing strategies, participating in e-commerce, negotiating commercial transactions, and preparing for export markets. Accordingly, the measure requires the development of a basic business and entrepreneurship curriculum specifically suited to Yakan master weavers and Yakan weaving enterprises.

The proposed business and entrepreneurship program will provide training in business planning, bookkeeping, costing and pricing, inventory management, financial management, marketing, digital commerce, branding, packaging, consumer protection, intellectual property awareness, responsible borrowing, and export readiness. Whenever practicable, these services shall be delivered through existing government mechanisms, including the Department of Trade and Industry's Negosyo Centers and other established MSME support programs, thereby avoiding unnecessary duplication of government services.

The bill also recognizes that sustainable enterprise development requires access to adequate and reasonably structured financing. Many community-based artisans and small enterprises have limited conventional collateral despite possessing valuable skills, established production capacity, existing markets, or viable opportunities for expansion. The proposed Yakan Weaving Credit and Export Development Facility shall therefore provide qualified Yakan weavers, cooperatives, associations, community-based enterprises, and micro, small, and medium enterprises with access to appropriate financing for working capital, raw materials, equipment, production expansion, inventory, purchase orders, receivables, and export preparation.

The proposed credit facility shall be administered separately from the Yakan Weaving Development Fund. This distinction is important for fiscal discipline and accountability. The Yakan Weaving Development Fund shall primarily support cultural preservation, training, apprenticeship, documentation, enterprise development, product innovation, market development, export-readiness, and other programmatic activities. The credit facility, on the other hand, shall constitute a separate financing mechanism that may be capitalized through congressional appropriations, existing authorized financing programs of the Small Business Corporation and participating government financial institutions, credit-guarantee mechanisms, and other lawful sources.

To provide an initial and identifiable source of support for the implementation of the program, the bill establishes the Yakan Weaving Development Fund with an initial capitalization of Fifty Million Pesos (₱50,000,000.00), subject to appropriation by Congress. The Fund may support master-weaver recognition, teaching honoraria, apprenticeships, business and financial-literacy training, cultural documentation, digital archiving, shared facilities, product development, responsible innovation, market development, export-readiness, intellectual property assistance, sustainable raw-material initiatives, and credit-readiness assistance. The Fund shall remain subject

to existing budgeting, accounting, auditing, procurement, and government financial-management laws and regulations.

The measure further provides for an Export Development Program for Yakan Woven Products. Yakan textiles possess characteristics that can appeal to domestic and international consumers seeking authentic, culturally significant, and responsibly produced products. However, international market access requires more than production capacity. It requires knowledge of international markets, quality requirements, packaging and labeling standards, export documentation, logistics, pricing, buyer relations, digital commerce, and export financing. The proposed program shall therefore assist qualified enterprises in export-readiness assessments, market research, buyer-seller matching, international trade fairs and missions, export documentation, international branding, product compliance, digital export platforms, and export financing.

At the same time, commercialization and exportation must not result in the unauthorized appropriation or distortion of Yakan cultural heritage. The bill therefore establishes safeguards for cultural integrity, authenticity, fair compensation, and equitable benefit-sharing. Commercial development shall not be interpreted as authority to reproduce, appropriate, or commercially exploit protected Yakan traditional knowledge or traditional cultural expressions without appropriate legal authority, community participation, and applicable safeguards. The measure likewise encourages the use of existing intellectual-property mechanisms, including trademarks, collective marks, geographical indications, copyright and related rights, contractual protections, and other appropriate legal instruments, where applicable.

The bill also recognizes that cultural preservation and economic development should reinforce one another. The survival of Yakan weaving depends upon the ability of weavers and their communities to obtain sustainable livelihoods from their skills while maintaining the authenticity and cultural significance of their work. By improving access to training, financing, technology, markets, and export opportunities, the State can help ensure that Yakan weaving remains economically viable without sacrificing its cultural identity.

To coordinate these efforts, the measure establishes a National Yakan Weaving Council composed of relevant national government agencies, government financial institutions, and representatives of Yakan weaving communities. The Council shall coordinate existing programs and formulate a National Yakan Weaving Development Plan containing measurable targets for master-weaver recognition, apprenticeships, enterprise development, financing, export development, cultural preservation, research, infrastructure, and market expansion.

The proposed Council and programs are likewise designed to minimize bureaucratic duplication. Existing government programs, facilities, registries, cultural-mapping systems, Negosyo Centers, training institutions, financing mechanisms, and technical services shall be utilized and integrated whenever practicable. The measure does not seek to establish a separate cultural-heritage regulatory system where an existing national mechanism can appropriately perform the same function.

The bill further requires meaningful participation and consultation of the concerned Yakan communities in the implementation of programs affecting their cultural heritage and traditional knowledge. Where required by Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as the "Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997," and its implementing rules and regulations, Free, Prior and Informed Consent and other applicable safeguards shall be observed. The State must ensure that programs intended to preserve and develop Yakan weaving are undertaken with, rather than merely for, the communities who are the cultural bearers of the tradition.

The measure is thus founded upon a simple but important principle: cultural heritage cannot be preserved by protecting only the finished product. It must be preserved by protecting the knowledge, skills, people, communities, and economic conditions that allow the tradition to continue. A Yakan master weaver should have the opportunity not only to preserve an ancestral skill but also to teach that skill to the next generation, operate a sustainable enterprise, access

responsible financing, expand production, participate in domestic and international markets, and serve as a cultural ambassador of the Philippines.

Through this measure, the State can establish a sustainable intergenerational framework for Yakan weaving—one that preserves the cultural heritage, strengthens the skills of master weavers, equips them with basic teaching and business knowledge, provides access to credit, encourages responsible innovation, expands domestic and international markets, and ensures that the economic benefits generated by Yakan textiles contribute meaningfully to the weavers and communities who sustain this living tradition.

The proposed legislation therefore seeks to preserve the heritage, teach the skill, empower the master weaver, develop the enterprise, provide access to credit, expand the market, facilitate responsible exportation, protect cultural identity, and ensure that the value generated by Yakan weaving returns to the communities that have preserved it through generations.

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. 11098

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

1 **AN ACT**

2 **PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, PROTECTION, PRESERVATION,**
3 **INNOVATION, AND EXPANSION OF YAKAN WEAVING AND YAKAN TEXTILE**
4 **PRODUCTION IN THE PHILIPPINES, RECOGNIZING YAKAN MASTER WEAVERS,**
5 **PROVIDING FOR THEIR TEACHING AND BUSINESS CAPACITY, ESTABLISHING**
6 **A CREDIT AND EXPORT DEVELOPMENT FACILITY AND A YAKAN WEAVING**
7 **DEVELOPMENT FUND, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

8
9 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
10 *Congress assembled:*
11

12 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “**Yakan Weaving Development,**
13 **Protection, and Innovation Act.**”

14 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to recognize, protect, preserve,
15 develop, and promote Yakan weaving and textile production as a living cultural heritage and as a
16 source of sustainable livelihood and economic opportunity for Yakan communities.

17 The State shall ensure the continued transmission of Yakan weaving knowledge and skills
18 to succeeding generations, strengthen the capacity of Yakan master weavers and enterprises,
19 promote responsible innovation and commercialization, improve access to financing and markets,
20 and facilitate the responsible expansion and exportation of authentic Yakan woven products.

21 SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – This Act shall pursue the following objectives:

- (a) Preserve and promote Yakan weaving, traditional knowledge, techniques, designs, patterns, and cultural expressions;
- (b) recognize and support Yakan master weavers as cultural bearers, teachers, and mentors;
- (c) facilitate the transmission of weaving knowledge through apprenticeships and community-based training;
- (d) provide master weavers and Yakan weaving enterprises with basic teaching, entrepreneurship, financial-literacy, digital, and export-readiness skills;
- (e) improve access to raw materials, equipment, technology, financing, and markets;
- (f) protect Yakan traditional knowledge and cultural expressions from unauthorized appropriation and commercialization;
- (g) promote responsible innovation and product development; and
- (h) develop domestic and international markets for Yakan woven products while ensuring fair compensation and meaningful community participation.

SEC. 4. **Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act:

- (a) **Yakan Weaving** refers to traditional weaving practices, techniques, knowledge, processes, designs, patterns, motifs, and cultural expressions traditionally associated with the Yakan people, including *tennun* or traditional Yakan woven cloth.
- (b) **Yakan Master Weaver** refers to a Yakan individual recognized through appropriate community validation as possessing demonstrated mastery, experience, and knowledge in Yakan weaving and the capacity to transmit such knowledge to others.
- (c) **Apprentice** refers to an individual undergoing structured instruction and practical training in Yakan weaving under a recognized master weaver or qualified cultural bearer.

(d) **Yakan Weaving Enterprise** refers to a cooperative, association, community-based enterprise, micro, small, or medium enterprise substantially engaged in Yakan weaving or Yakan textile production.

(e) **Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions** refer to knowledge, skills, techniques, designs, patterns, motifs, symbols, artistic expressions, and other cultural expressions developed, maintained, and transmitted by the Yakan community.

SEC. 5. **National Yakan Weaving Development Program.** – There is hereby established a National Yakan Weaving Development Program, which shall provide an integrated framework for:

- (a) master-weaver recognition and support;
- (b) teaching and apprenticeship;
- (c) entrepreneurship and financial-literacy training;
- (d) research, documentation, and cultural preservation;
- (e) product development and responsible innovation;
- (f) market development and digital commerce;
- (g) credit and enterprise development;
- (h) export-readiness and international market access; and
- (i) protection of traditional knowledge and cultural expressions.

The Program shall, whenever practicable, utilize existing government programs, facilities, Negosyo Centers, cultural-mapping systems, training institutions, and financing mechanisms to avoid unnecessary duplication.

SEC. 6. **National Yakan Weaving Council.** — There is hereby created a National Yakan Weaving Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, which shall coordinate the implementation of this Act.

1 The Council shall be chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry
2 (DTI), with the Chairperson of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) as Vice-
3 Chairperson, and shall include representatives from the Department of Education (DepEd),
4 Department of Tourism (DOT), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA),
5 Department of Science and Technology (DOST), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
6 (NCIP), Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL), Department of Foreign Affairs
7 (DFA), Small Business Corporation (SBC), relevant Bangsamoro institutions, and at least three
8 (3) recognized Yakan master weavers or representatives of Yakan weaving communities.

9 The Council shall formulate the National Yakan Weaving Development Plan, coordinate
10 government programs, establish program standards, oversee the Fund and credit facility, monitor
11 implementation, and recommend policies necessary to achieve the purposes of this Act.

12 **SEC. 7. *Recognition and Support of Yakan Master Weavers.*** — The Council, through the
13 NCCA and in consultation with Yakan communities, shall establish a Registry of Yakan Master
14 Weavers based principally upon community validation and demonstrated mastery of traditional
15 Yakan weaving.

16 Recognized master weavers shall be eligible for teaching honoraria, training,
17 entrepreneurship assistance, financial-literacy programs, product development, market assistance,
18 intellectual-property assistance, and other benefits authorized under this Act, subject to applicable
19 appropriations and government rules.

20 Government recognition shall not diminish the authority of Yakan communities to identify
21 their own cultural bearers.

22 **SEC. 8. *Master Weaver Teaching and Business Capacity Program.*** — The NCCA,
23 TESDA, DTI, DepEd, and concerned local government units shall establish a program to equip
24 recognized Yakan master weavers with basic teaching and business knowledge and to facilitate
25 the training of apprentices.

26 The program shall cover, as appropriate, traditional weaving techniques, cultural protocols,
27 teaching methods, learner assessment, business planning, bookkeeping, costing and pricing,

1 inventory and cash-flow management, marketing, digital commerce, branding, intellectual
2 property awareness, responsible borrowing, and export readiness.

3 Existing DTI Negosyo Centers and other government training facilities shall be utilized
4 whenever practicable.

5 **SEC. 9. *Protection of Yakan Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Expressions.*** — The
6 Council, in coordination with the NCCA, NCIP, IPOPHL, DTI, and other concerned agencies,
7 shall support the protection of Yakan traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions
8 from unauthorized appropriation, reproduction, commercialization, or misrepresentation.

9 Appropriate existing legal mechanisms, including intellectual-property protection,
10 collective marks, geographical indications, contractual arrangements, community protocols, and
11 other applicable safeguards, may be utilized.

12 The commercialization or exportation of Yakan products shall not be construed as
13 authorization to appropriate or commercially exploit protected traditional knowledge or cultural
14 expressions.

15 **SEC. 10. *Cultural Integrity, Authenticity, and Fair Compensation.*** — The Council shall
16 establish, in consultation with Yakan communities, appropriate standards for authenticity,
17 provenance, ethical commercialization, and fair compensation of Yakan weavers and cultural
18 bearers.

19 Government-supported programs involving Yakan traditional knowledge or cultural
20 expressions shall provide for meaningful community participation and, where appropriate,
21 equitable benefit-sharing.

22 **SEC. 11. *Yakan Weaving Credit and Export Development Facility.*** — There is hereby
23 established a Yakan Weaving Credit and Export Development Facility, to be administered by the
24 Small Business Corporation in coordination with the DTI and participating government financial
25 institutions.

26 The Facility shall provide appropriate financing to qualified Yakan master weavers,
27 weavers, cooperatives, associations, community-based enterprises, and MSMEs for working

capital, raw materials, equipment, production expansion, inventory, purchase orders, receivables, export preparation, and other legitimate business purposes.

The Facility shall be maintained separately from the Yakan Weaving Development Fund.

The Small Business Corporation shall establish lending guidelines, including eligibility, interest rates, repayment periods, collateral and credit-guarantee requirements, and other appropriate terms. consistent with prudent lending standards and applicable law.

SEC. 12. Export Development. — The DTI, DFA, DOT, SBC, and other concerned agencies shall assist qualified Yakan weaving enterprises in entering domestic and international markets.

Assistance may include market research, buyer-seller matching, trade fairs and missions, export documentation, product standards, packaging and labeling, international branding, digital commerce, logistics, and export financing.

Priority may be given to enterprises that employ Yakan weavers, provide apprenticeships, use authentic Yakan techniques, provide fair compensation, and demonstrate viable production and business plans.

SEC. 13. Yakan Weaving Development Fund. — There is hereby created a Yakan Weaving Development Fund, hereinafter referred to as the Fund, with an initial capitalization of Fifty Million Pesos (₱50,000,000.00), subject to appropriation by Congress.

The Fund shall be administered by the DTI in coordination with the Council and shall be used for:

- (a) master-weaver recognition and teaching honoraria;
- (b) apprenticeship and skills transmission;
- (c) business, financial-literacy, and export-readiness training;
- (d) research, documentation, and cultural preservation;
- (e) shared training and production facilities;
- (f) product development and responsible innovation;

- (g) market and export development;
- (h) intellectual-property and authenticity assistance;
- (i) sustainable raw-material initiatives;
- (j) technical assistance and credit-readiness programs; and
- (k) monitoring and evaluation.

The Fund shall not constitute the lending capital of the Credit and Export Development Facility unless expressly authorized by law and appropriated for such purpose.

SEC. 14. *Participation of Local Government Units and Yakan Communities.* — LGUs with Yakan weaving communities shall, subject to applicable law and availability of funds, support the implementation of this Act through local cultural programs, training facilities, tourism promotion, cultural mapping, enterprise assistance, and access to government services.

All programs under this Act shall ensure the meaningful participation and consultation of concerned Yakan communities.

Where required under Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as the "Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997," and applicable rules, Free, Prior and Informed Consent and other safeguards shall be observed.

SEC. 15. *Harmonization with Existing Cultural-Heritage Laws.* — This Act shall be implemented in harmony with Republic Act No. 10066, otherwise known as the "National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009," as amended by Republic Act No. 11961, and its implementing rules and regulations.

Nothing in this Act shall create a separate or competing cultural-heritage registration, documentation, conservation, or protection system where an existing mechanism under Republic Act No. 10066, as amended, may appropriately be utilized.

The Council and implementing agencies shall, whenever practicable, integrate the programs under this Act with existing cultural-heritage registries, cultural mapping, documentation, conservation, and other applicable government mechanisms.

Implementation shall be consistent with the principle of harmonization and with the policy of preserving, enriching, and allowing the dynamic evolution of Filipino culture.

SEC. 16. *National Yakan Weaving Development Plan and Monitoring.* — Within one hundred eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Council shall formulate a five-year National Yakan Weaving Development Plan.

The Plan shall establish measurable targets for master-weaver recognition, apprenticeships, enterprise development, financing, market expansion, exports, cultural preservation, and employment and livelihood generation.

The Council shall submit an annual report to the President and Congress on the implementation of this Act, including the utilization of the Fund and the performance of the credit facility.

SEC. 17. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DTI, NCCA, TESDA, DepEd, DOT, DOST, NCIP, IPOPHL, DFA, SBC, and other concerned agencies, in consultation with Yakan communities and master weavers, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 18. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the concerned agencies, insofar as legally authorized.

Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The initial **₱50,000,000.00 capitalization of the Yakan Weaving Development Fund** shall be specifically provided for in the General Appropriations Act following the effectivity of this Act.

1 The capitalization of the Yakan Weaving Credit and Export Development Facility shall be
2 separately provided through appropriations authorized by Congress, existing authorized financing
3 programs, credit-guarantee mechanisms, and other lawful sources.

4 SEC. 19. ***Separability Clause.*** — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
5 unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

6 SEC. 20. ***Repealing Clause.*** — All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, and other
7 issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified
8 accordingly.

9 SEC. 21. ***Effectivity.*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
10 the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

11 Approved.