

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 127

Submitted by the Committee on Tourism on February 24, 2026

Re : House Bill No. **8038**

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1381

Sponsor : Representatives Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona, Eddiebong G. Plaza, and Alfelito
"Alfel" M. Bascug

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Tourism to which was referred House Bill No. 1381, introduced by Representatives Eddiebong G. Plaza and Alfelito "Alfel" M. Bascug, entitled:

**"AN ACT
DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR AS THE HOME
OF THE GOLDEN TARA"**

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. **8038**, entitled:

**"AN ACT
DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR AS THE HOME
OF THE GOLDEN TARA"**

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 1381 with Representatives Eddiebong G. Plaza, Alfelito "Alfel" M. Bascug, Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona, Junard "Ahong" Q. Chan, Rosalie Ang Salvame, Rommel Rico T. Angara, Jose C. Alvarez, Elisa "Olga" T. Kho, Dibu S. Tuan, Florencio T. Miraflores, Tsuyoshi Anthony "Hori" G. Horibata, John Geesnell "Baba" Yap, Caroline B. Agyao, MD, Ustadz Yusop T. Alano, Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Romeo S. Momo, Sr., Ronald V. Singson, Patricia C. Calderon, Rebecca Maria Alcantara Ynares, Dale B. Corvera, Celso G. Regencia, Jane T. Castro, Alyssa Michaela "Mica" M. Gonzales, Binky April M. Tupas, Salvador A. Pleyto, Marlo C. Bancoro, Eulogio "Leo" R. Rodriguez, Ferdinand "B1" L. Beltran, Niko Raul S.J. Daza, Rachel Marguerite B. Del Mar, Howard A. Guintu, Angelo Marcos Barba, John Tracy F. Cagas, Timothy Joseph E. Cayton, King Collantes, Antonino B. Roman III, Laarni Lavin Roque, Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., and Lordan G. Suan as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,


REP. ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA
Chairperson
Committee on Tourism

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

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HOUSE BILL NO. 8038
(In substitution of House Bill No. 1381)

Introduced by Representatives Eddiebong G. Plaza, Alfelito “Alfel” M. Bascug, Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona, Junard “Ahong” Q. Chan, Rosalie Ang Salvame, Rommel Rico T. Angara, Jose C. Alvarez, Elisa “Olga” T. Kho, Dibu S. Tuan, Florencio T. Miraflores, Tsuyoshi Anthony “Hori” G. Horibata, John Geesnell “Baba” Yap, Caroline B. Agyao, MD, Ustadz Yusop T. Alano, Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Romeo S. Momo, Sr., Ronald V. Singson, Patricia C. Calderon, Rebecca Maria Alcantara Ynares, Dale B. Corvera, Celso G. Regencia, Jane T. Castro, Alyssa Michaela “Mica” M. Gonzales, Binky April M. Tupas, Salvador A. Pleyto, Marlo C. Bancoro, Eulogio “Leo” R. Rodriguez, Ferdinand “B1” L. Beltran, Niko Raul S.J. Daza, Rachel Marguerite B. Del Mar, Howard A. Guintu, Angelo Marcos Barba, John Tracy F. Cagas, Timothy Joseph E. Cayton, King Collantes, Antonino B. Roman III, Laarni Lavin Roque, Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., and Lordan G. Suan

AN ACT
DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR AS THE HOME OF THE GOLDEN TARA

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

1 **SECTION 1.** It is the policy of the State to preserve the country’s cultural artifacts and
2 promote its rich history and cultural heritage.

3 In line with this policy, the Province of Agusan del Sur, being the site where the Golden
4 Tara, a 21-karat gold statuette of a female Hindu deity that dates back to the 9th-10th centuries
5 was found in 1917 on the banks of the Wawa River in the Municipality of Esperanza, shall be
6 acknowledged for its significant contribution to the nation’s pre-colonial history and cultural
7 identity.

8 Presently on display at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, United States
9 of America, it is considered a testament to the rich cultural heritage of the Province of Agusan
10 del Sur and its commercial and cultural ties with Southeast Asian states before the Spanish

1 colonial period.

2 **SEC. 2.** The Department of Tourism shall feature the Golden Tara and the rich cultural
3 heritage of the Province of Agusan del Sur in its national and regional promotion programs.

4 **SEC. 3.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*
5 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

6 Approved,