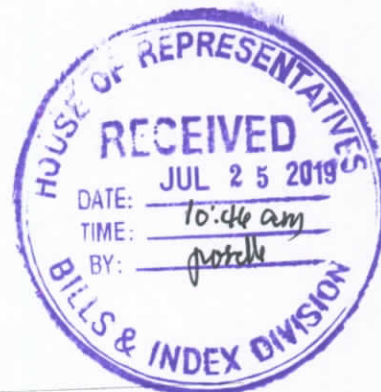


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez
2792

House Bill No. _____

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill was filed during the 17th Congress and was approved by the House of Representatives.

The *Dracontomelon dao* tree or the Dao tree as it is known in the country is a tropical canopy tree that could grow as high as 45 metres or 148 feet. It has a greyish-brown trunk which is branchless up to about 20 m (66 ft) and has narrow buttresses which can reach up its trunk up to 6 m (20 ft) high. This tree is native to the riverine and limestone forests of Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Thailand.

In the Philippines, one of the biggest and oldest Dao tree can be found in Cagayan de Oro City, particularly within a pocket secondary forest in the Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) area of the E. Pelaez Ranch in Bayombong, Barangay Cugman. At present, this Dao tree is 49 meters high and has a diameter of 222.8 centimetres. It is estimated to be more than 200 years old.

It is imperative that the tree be declared the heritage tree of Cagayan de Oro City in order to ensure its long term protection. It can also be an additional tourist attraction for the city.

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


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

2792

House Bill No. _____

AN ACT

DECLARING THE DAO TREE LOCATED WITHIN A POCKET SECONDARY FOREST IN THE INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT (IFMA) AREA OF THE E. PELAEZ RANCH IN BAYOMBONG, BARANGAY CUGMAN, CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY AS THE CAGAYAN DE ORO HERITAGE TREE AND A TOURIST ATTRACTION

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

SECTION 1. The Dao Tree, located within a pocket secondary forest in the Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) area of the E. Pelaez Ranch in Bayombong, Barangay Cugman, Cagayan de Oro City, and which is estimated to be two hundred (200) years old, is hereby declared the "Cagayan de Oro Heritage Tree" and a tourist attraction.

SEC. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with the Cagayan de Oro City Cultural Heritage Conservation Council, the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and other concerned agencies of the government, shall prepare the tourism development plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure which shall ensure its protection and enhance tourism in the area: *Provided*, That the development shall ensure the tree's protection and preservation, and its promotion as a tourist attraction.

SEC. 3. The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the tourism development plan and incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and internally generated funds of the DOT.

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

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

Approved.