

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7917

BY REPRESENTATIVES PLAZA, ARAGONES, BASCUG, UY (J.), VIOLAGO, GATO, CABREDO, CELESTE AND SAULOG, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 568

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 and promote historical and
2 cultural artifacts.

3 The Province of Agusan del Sur is hereby declared as the Home of the Golden Tara, a
4 21-karat gold statuette of a female Hindu deity that dates back to the 9th-10th centuries and
5 was found in 1917 on the banks of the Wawa River in the Municipality of Esperanza,
6 Province of Agusan del Sur. Presently on display in the Field Museum of Natural History in
7 Chicago, United States of America, it is considered a testament to the rich cultural heritage of
8 Agusan del Sur and to its fine crafting tradition that already existed during pre-colonial times.

9 **Sec. 2.** The Department of Tourism (DOT) shall feature the Golden Tara and the rich
10 cultural heritage of Agusan del Sur in the Department's overall tourism promotion program.

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

13 Approved,