



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6069

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROMUALDEZ (Y.M.), ACIDRE, ROMULO, SAULOG, AQUINO, ESCUDERO, CARI, CHAN, DE VENECIA, LAGMAN, FRESNEDI, CORVERA, CO-PILAR, RAMA, CASTRO (F.), CALDERON, MAGSINO, MANUEL, RODRIGUEZ (E.), TEODORO, GATO, ACOP, GULLAS, QUIMBO, HERNANDEZ, DEL MAR, DIMAPORO (S.A.), ZAMORA (M.C.), SALO, HATAMAN, MANQUIZ, NISAY, ONGCHUAN, GARCIA (D.), FLORES, CABREDO, DUJALI, PADIERNOS, BORDADO, SINGSON-MEEHAN, MERCADO-REVILLA, REVILLA (B.), REVILLA (R.J.), YAP (C.), GOMEZ, MASTURA, DALIPE AND ROMUALDEZ (F.M.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 167

AN ACT

PROMOTING PHILIPPINE INDIGENOUS AND TRADITIONAL WRITING SYSTEMS AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR PROTECTION, PRESERVATION, AND CONSERVATION

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Indigenous and
2 Traditional Writing Systems Act.”
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the declared policy of the State to foster the
5 preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of a Filipino national culture based on the
6 principle of unity in diversity in a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression. To this
7 end, the State shall promote, protect, preserve, and conserve the Philippine indigenous and
8 traditional writing systems as a means to inculcate patriotism and social consciousness among
9 the citizenry.
10

11 **SEC. 3. Promotion of Philippine Indigenous and Traditional Writing Systems.** –
12 To generate greater awareness of indigenous and traditional scripts of the Philippines and
13 engender wider appreciation of their significance and beauty, the promotion of the writing
14 systems is hereby recognized as part of our cultural treasures.
15

16 As expressions of Philippine tradition and symbols of the national identity, the
17 country’s indigenous writing systems shall be promoted through the following measures and
18 activities:
19

20 (a) Inclusion of these writing systems in relevant subjects of basic and higher education
21 such as elective or specialized courses in higher education on the study of the same;

1 (b) Conduct of activities to be spearheaded by the Department of Education, the
2 Commission on Higher Education, and local governments that promote awareness of the
3 writing systems, particularly during *Buwan ng Wika* and similar occasions and events;
4

5 (c) Conduct of seminars, conferences, conventions, symposia, and other relevant
6 activities on Philippine writing systems, taking into consideration the writing system that is
7 indigenous to a particular region;
8

9 (d) Ensure proper record-keeping of relevant documents and preservation of oral
10 evidence on the writing systems; and
11

12 (e) Other applicable measures, as may be adopted by the concerned government
13 agencies.
14

15 **SEC. 4. *Protection, Preservation and Conservation of Indigenous or Philippine***
16 ***Traditional Scripts.*** – The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) shall be the
17 lead agency in promulgating policy guidelines on the promotion of the writing systems.
18

19 Accordingly, the NCCA is hereby mandated to protect, preserve, and conserve the
20 writing systems as national cultural treasures in accordance with Republic Act No. 10066,
21 otherwise known as the “National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009”. The NCCA shall coordinate
22 with the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) for technical assistance on the development of
23 the Philippine languages and writing, and with the DepEd, CHED, and other relevant
24 government agencies for the proper implementation of this provision.
25

26 **SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days after the
27 approval of this Act, the NCCA shall, in coordination with the DepEd, CHED and KWF,
28 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.
29

30 **SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part, section or provision of this Act shall be
31 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts, sections and provisions not otherwise
32 affected shall remain in full force and effect.
33

34 **SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations
35 and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
36 hereby repealed or amended accordingly.
37

38 **SEC. 8. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
39 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,