



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8064

BY REPRESENTATIVE RODRIGUEZ (R.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 518

AN ACT

**DECLARING THE CAGAYAN DE ORO RIVER AND ITS IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS,
LOCATED IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL,
A CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TOURISM ZONE**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the “Cagayan de Oro River Cultural Heritage
2 and Tourism Zone Act.”

3 **SEC. 2.** It is the policy of the State to ensure the preservation and conservation of its
4 heritage and natural resources for the benefit of the present and future generations. It is also the
5 policy of the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible,
6 participative, culturally sensitive, and economically viable and equitable for local communities.

7 Towards this end, in promoting tourism, it shall also be the duty of the State to conserve
8 the natural diversity and integrity of the Cagayan de Oro River and its immediate environs
9 which are of historical and cultural importance.

10 As used in this Act, cultural heritage refers to historical, anthropological,
11 archaeological, artistic geographical areas and settings that are culturally significant to the
12 country.

1 **SEC. 3.** The Cagayan de Oro River and its immediate environs located in Cagayan de
2 Oro City, Province of Misamis Oriental, are hereby declared as cultural heritage and tourism
3 zone, to be known as the Cagayan de Oro River Cultural Heritage and Tourism Zone. Pursuant
4 thereto, their development as cultural heritage and tourism zone shall be prioritized and
5 supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with the Department of
6 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), National Commission for Culture and the Arts
7 (NCCA) and concerned agencies of the government, subject to the rules and regulations
8 governing the conservation and preservation of cultural heritage sites and the development of
9 tourism zones.

10 **SEC. 4.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the local government of
11 Cagayan de Oro City shall, in coordination with the DOT, DENR, NCCA, National Historical
12 Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), National Museum of the Philippines (NMP) and
13 concerned agencies of the government, prepare a development plan that shall involve the
14 conservation, preservation and development of the Cagayan de Oro River Cultural Heritage
15 and Tourism Zone: *Provided*, That said development plan shall include the installation and
16 maintenance of such appropriate infrastructure and facilities to enhance tourism in the area:
17 *Provided, further*, That any activity which pollutes, destroys or adversely affects the
18 archaeological, historical, cultural, ecological and economic values of the Cagayan de Oro
19 River and its immediate environs shall be prohibited: *Provided, finally*, That the implementation
20 of the development plan shall be included in the budget of the local government of Cagayan de
21 Oro City.

22 **SEC. 5.** The DENR shall conduct and execute a survey to determine the actual metes
23 and bounds of the Cagayan de Oro River Cultural Heritage and Tourism Zone.

24 **SEC. 6.** The DOT shall assist the local government of Cagayan de Oro City in the
25 implementation of the development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity

1 building. It shall also include the Cagayan de Oro River Cultural Heritage and Tourism Zone
2 in its national and regional promotion programs.

3 **SEC. 7.** The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual
4 budget of the local government of Cagayan de Oro City. The DOT may augment such
5 allocation with internally-generated funds.

6 **SEC. 8.** Any person or entity which shall cause destruction to the archaeological,
7 historical, cultural, ecological and economic values of the Cagayan de Oro River and its
8 immediate environs shall suffer a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos
9 (P100,000.00) but not more than Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00) and imprisonment of not
10 less than one (1) year but not more than five (5) years.

11 **SEC. 9.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the local government
12 of Cagayan de Oro City shall, in consultation with the DOT, DENR, NCCA, NHCP, NMP and
13 concerned agencies of the government, promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.

14 **SEC. 10.** If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the
15 other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

16 **SEC. 11.** All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees and other issuances
17 inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended
18 accordingly.

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

Approved,

