



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 1148

BY REPRESENTATIVES VILLAFUERTE AND OCAMPO

AN ACT CREATING THE BIKOL CULTURAL CENTER, DEFINING ITS OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. In the implementation of the constitutional mandate that
2 arts and letters shall be under the patronage of the State, there is hereby
3 authorized to be established the Bikol Cultural Center, hereinafter referred to
4 as the Center, within the Capitol Complex in the Capital Town of Pili,
5 Province of Camarines Sur.

6 SEC. 2. The Center shall have the following objectives and functions:

7 (a) To awaken the consciousness of Bicolanos to their culture and
8 heritage, and to encourage them to participate or provide assistance in its
9 preservation, enhancement and development;

10 (b) To create and cultivate public awareness in, and appreciation of,
11 distinctive Bikol arts in various fields, and to identify and promote the Bicol
12 Region's contributions to national cultural development;

1 (c) To discover, develop and assist talents connected with cultural
2 pursuits and provide greater opportunities and incentives for individual
3 self-expression in, and collective promotion of, cultural projects and programs;

4 (d) To encourage the organization and promotion of cultural groups,
5 associations, societies or councils, and the holding or staging of cultural
6 exhibitions, performances, tours and other related or similar activities; and

7 (e) To construct, establish, operate and maintain edifices, public parks
8 and other facilities for the holding of musical shows and festivals, theatrical
9 presentations, art exhibitions, or for the holding of conferences, symposia,
10 seminars, concerts and other cultural activities.

11 SEC. 3. The Sangguniang Panlalawigan of the Province of Camarines
12 Sur, with the approval of the Governor, shall, by appropriate resolution, vest in
13 a governing Board of Trustees the conduct and operation of the programs and
14 activities of the Center. The Board of Trustees of the Center shall not be less
15 than nine (9) but not more than fifteen (15) in number who shall be appointed
16 by the Governor of the Province of Camarines Sur, under such qualification
17 standards as are prescribed by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, for a term of
18 office not exceeding three (3) years. No member of the Board of Trustees
19 shall serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

20 By appropriate resolution, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of the
21 Province of Camarines Sur, with the approval of the Governor, shall prescribe
22 the powers and duties of the Board of Trustees of the Center including their
23 honoraria for actual attendance at meetings.

24 SEC. 4. The Provincial Governor of Camarines Sur shall provide the
25 land that shall be necessary for the Center to construct and establish the Center,
26 its ancillary office and facilities, as well as the annual operating expenses that
27 the Center shall require to carry out its objectives and functions.

1 The Provincial Government of Camarines Sur shall provide a
2 supplemental budgetary allocation for the capital outlays and the management
3 and operating expenses of the Center.

4 SEC. 5. The Center shall be exempt from the following forms of
5 taxation:

6 (a) All donations in any form to the Center shall be exempt from the
7 donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deduction from the
8 gross income in the computation of the income tax of the donor, in accordance
9 with the provisions of Republic Act No. 8424, otherwise known as the
10 National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended; and

11 (b) Importation of scientific, philosophical, historical and cultural
12 books, supplies and materials for the use in the conservation or preservation
13 work of the Center shall be exempt from customs duties.

14 SEC. 6. The Center shall, within ninety (90) days from and after the
15 end of every calendar year, submit an annual report of its activities for the
16 preceding year and its proposed programs for the incoming year. This annual
17 report or such other reports as may be required by the Sangguniang
18 Panlalawigan of the Province of Camarines Sur shall be submitted to and
19 through the Governor of the Province and to the National Commission on
20 Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

21 SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
22 in the *Official Gazette*.

Approved,