HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5643

BY REPRESENTATIVES RODRIGUEZ, ROMULO, OLIVAREZ, FORTUNO, ESCUDERO, DE VENECIA, BASCUG, CARI, ESPINA, ABUNDA, PANOTES, GUICO, TUTOR, BARBA, CASTELO, ANDAYA, SAULOG, BORDADO, GULLAS, FORTUN, MANGAOANG, RADAZA, GARCIA (V.) AND BENITEZ, per Committee Report No. 97

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 ZONE

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

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

SEC. 2. It is the policy of the State to administer its heritage and natural resources in a spirit of stewardship for the inspiration and benefit of the present and future generations.

Towards this end, it shall be the duty of the State to conserve the natural diversity and integrity of the Cagayan de Oro River as well as its sites of historical and cultural importance.

SEC. 3. The Cagayan de Oro River and its immediate environs located in Cagayan de Oro City, Province of Misamis Oriental is hereby declared a cultural heritage zone. As such, it shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the City Government of Cagayan de Oro, and other concerned agencies of the government, and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the conservation and preservation of cultural heritage zones.

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

SEC. 4. Any activity that pollutes, destroys or adversely affects the archaeological, historical, cultural, ecological, and economic values of the Cagayan de Oro River and its immediate environs is prohibited.

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

SEC. 6. The DOT, in coordination with the DENR, the NCCA, the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), the National Museum of the Philippines (NMP), the City Government of Cagayan de Oro, and other
concerned agencies of the government, shall immediately
prepare the development plan involving the conservation,
preservation, and development of Cagayan de Oro River
Cultural Heritage Zone: Provided, That the development plan
shall ensure the conservation and preservation of the Cagayan
de Oro River and its environs and protect it from threats of
pollution, industrialization, and other environmentally destructive
human activities.

SEC. 7. The DENR shall conduct and execute a survey to
determine the actual metes and bounds of the Cagayan de Oro
River Cultural Heritage Zone.

SEC. 8. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of
this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the DENR, the TIEZA,
the NCCA, the NHCP, the NMP, the City Government of
Cagayan de Oro, and other concerned agencies of the
government, shall promulgate the necessary rules and
regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of
general circulation.

Approved,