



**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS NA YAMAN**



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors**
Legal Affairs Service
Policy and Planning Service
Climate Change Service

The Bureau Directors
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Land Management Bureau
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau

The Regional Executive Director
Region X

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **INVITATION TO THE ONLINE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) MEETING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS ON THE CAGAYAN DE ORO CULTURAL HERITAGE ZONE ACT**

DATE : 02 July 2024

In reference to the email received by our Office, the Senate Committee on Culture and the Arts joint with the Committee on Tourism is inviting the Department to the **Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting on 09 July 2024, Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM Videoconference** to discuss the following legislative measures:

- **SBN 2130** - AN ACT DECLARING CAGAYAN DE ORO RIVER AND ITS IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS LOCATED IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL A CULTURAL HERITAGE ZONE by Sen. Loren Legarda
- **SBN 1947** - AN ACT DECLARING CAGAYAN DE ORO RIVER AND ITS IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS LOCATED IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL A CULTURAL HERITAGE ZONE by Sen. Marcos

- **HBN 8064 - 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** by Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez

In this regard, may we respectfully request comments/recommendations if any on the abovementioned bills, in anticipation of the public hearing as requested by the Committee. Kindly send them on or before July 5, 2024, at 5:00 PM via email at denrlo@denr.gov.ph. Further, kindly inform us of the name/s of the representative/s from your office who will participate in the meeting so we may include him/her/them as resource person/s.

Attached herewith are the Letter Invitation and copies of the bills through this link, <https://bit.ly/3Vqc0O9>, and a copy of the Matrix, for your reference.



ROMIROSE B. PADIN

cc:

Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs
Undersecretary for Field Operations-Mindanao



Republic of the Philippines
SENATE

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS

joint with the Committees on Tourism and Finance

July 1, 2024

THE HONORABLE
SECRETARY MARIA ANTONIA YULO LOYZAGA
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

Dear **Secretary Loyzaga**:

The Committee on Culture and the Arts joint with the Committees on Tourism and Finance would like to respectfully invite your Honor or your duly authorized representative as a resource person to a Consultative Meeting scheduled on **July 9, 2024, Tuesday, at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom Online Platform** to discuss the following bills:

CAGAYAN DE ORO RIVER CULTURAL HERITAGE ZONE ACT

SBN 2130 - AN ACT DECLARING CAGAYAN DE ORO RIVER AND ITS IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS LOCATED IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL A CULTURAL HERITAGE ZONE by Sen. Loren Legarda

SBN 1947 - AN ACT DECLARING CAGAYAN DE ORO RIVER AND ITS IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS LOCATED IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL A CULTURAL HERITAGE ZONE by Sen. Marcos

HBN 8064 - 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 by Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez.

The committee will conduct a consultative meeting in the morning and will discuss the provisions of the bills line by line in the afternoon.

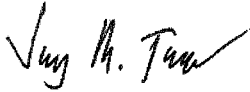
Kindly submit to the Committee your office's position paper and any other deliverable/s requested by Chairperson Legarda on the said measures on or before July 9, 2024, for further processing and preparation.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at mobile no. 0927-704-1000 or Ms. Abby Olson, Committee Support Staff at 0999-998-6923. We look forward to your positive response.

Thank you.

For the Chairperson:

SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joey M. Tunac". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

JOEY M. TUNAC, MNSA

Committee Secretary



Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines

SENATE

Pasay City

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE
(TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP)**

Date : Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Time : 9:30 a.m.

Venue : Sen. Vicente Y. Sotto Room
Senate of the Philippines
Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Agenda : **CAGAYAN DE ORO RIVER CULTURAL HERITAGE
ZONE ACT:**

**SENATE BILL NOS. 2130, 1947, and HOUSE BILL
NO. 8064 - AN ACT DECLARING CAGAYAN DE ORO
RIVER AND ITS IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS LOCATED
IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS
ORIENTAL A CULTURAL HERITAGE ZONE [by
Senators Legarda, Marcos and Representative
Rodriguez (R.)]**

ATTENDANCE

Atty. Maria Paz Luna	-	Presiding Officer
Atty. Asmenah Barambangan	-	Office of Senator Legarda
Atty. Kim Laurente-Alib	-	Office of Senator Legarda
Atty. Daphne Marcelo	-	Office of Senator Villanueva

GUESTS/RESOURCE PERSONS:

Ms. Mikhaela Castro	-	Cultural Properties Regulation Division, National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA)
Mr. Renzo Polangco	-	Culture and Arts Officer, NCCA
Ms. Genissa O. Villegas	-	Architect II, National Historical

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| | Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) |
| Ms. Juvelyn D. Nierves | - History Researcher II, NHCP |
| Mr. Jesus Christopher F. Salon | - OIC-City Museum of Cagayan De Oro and Heritage Studies Center |
| Engr. Armen A. Cuenca | - Department Head, City Local Environment and Natural Resources Office, Cagayan De Oro |
| Mr. Simeon Josafat J. Licayan | - City Planning and Development Office, Cagayan de Oro |
| Mr. Kevin Mugot | - City Planning and Development Office, Cagayan de Oro |
| Mr. Decius L. Esmedalla | - Assistant Regional Director, Department of Tourism (DOT), Region X |
| Atty. Glaiza G. Sarmiento | - Legislative Liaison Unit, DOT |
| Atty. Ban Mikhael C. Pacuribot | - Chief Legal, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Region X |
| Mr. Luis Paolo Masangkay | - Technical Assistant, DENR |
| Atty. Lannie B. Cipres-Salazar | - Legal Officer, Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) |
| Mr. Francis Randy J. Hortelano | - Manager, TEZ Assistance and Monitoring Department, TIEZA |
| Mr. Rady E. Adame | - Division Manager, Project Planning and Design Division TIEZA |
| Mr. Jeremy R. Barns | - Director, National Museum of the Philippines |
| Mr. Arvin Manuel Villalon | - Director for Mindanao, National Museum of the Philippines |
| Engr. Maricel P. De Luna | - Engineer IV, National Mapping Resource and Information Authority (NAMRIA) |
| Engr. Erwin M. Gofredo | - Engineer III, NAMRIA |
| Mr. Renato P. Esperanza | - Supervising Remote Sensing Technologist, NAMRIA |

SENATE SECRETARIAT:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Atty. Floyd Douglas Nicolas B. Pichay- | Director III, Legislative Library Service |
| Ms. Putli Suharni S. Candao | - Director II, Legislative Research Service |

Committee on Culture and the Arts
Joint with the Committees on Tourism; and Finance
(Technical Working Group)
June 25, 2024 (Tuesday)
Page 3

Mr. Joey M. Tunac, MNSA	-	Committee Secretary
Ms. Irene A. Dimapilis	-	Committee Stenographer
Ms. Jo B. Cadaing	-	Committee Stenographer
Mr. Marlon M. Suligan	-	Committee Stenographer
Ms. Ma. Cathrina B. Quema-Silvor	-	Committee Stenographer
Ms. Rana Angue Tenorio	-	LCSS Support Staff
Ms. Abby Olson	-	Committee Support Staff
Ms. Arriane Adis	-	Committee Support Staff
Mr. Allan Vargas	-	Committee Support Staff
Mr. Ray Angelo Eduardo	-	Committee Support Staff

(For a complete list, please see the attached Attendance Sheet.)

/cbqs/ges/agc

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

IADimapilis I-1 June 25, 2024 9:37 a.m. 1

**AT 9:37 A.M., ATTY. MARIA PAZ LUNA,
PRESIDING OFFICER, CALLED THE MEETING TO
ORDER.**

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (MS. LUNA). Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat.

My name is Ipat Luna, working for the Office of Senator Legarda, and we apologize for the five-minute, six minutes delay of the opening of this TWG.

We are currently on a TWG for the Cagayan de Oro Cultural Heritage Zone. And we would like to ask Director Suh to please introduce the panel as well as the participants to the TWG.

MS. CANDAO. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Good morning, everybody.

So this morning for the Cagayan de Oro River Cultural Heritage Zone Act, we have guests who are online and also those who are here at the Sotto Room.

We have from the National Commission for the Culture and the Arts, Ms. Mikhaela Castro. She is online, Madam Chair. And we have other guests who will be joining us later, also from the NCCA. And from the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, we have Ms. Genissa O. Villegas and Ms. Juvelyn Nierves; from the Office of the City

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

IADimapilis I-1 June 25, 2024 9:37 a.m. 2

Mayor of the government of Cagayan de Oro, via zoom also, we have Mr. Jesus Christopher F. Salon, from the City Museum of Cagayan De Oro and Heritage Studies Center; Engineer Armen Cuenca, department head of the City Local Environment and Natural Resources Office; Mr. Simeon Josafat Licayan, City Planning and Development Office; from the office of honorable Ma. Esperanza Christina Frasco of the Department of Tourism, we have Mr. Decius Esmedalla, who was here really early--he was here ahead of us--from Region X; and then we also have Atty. Glaiza Sarmiento, the legislative liaison unit of the Department of Tourism; and from our Department of Environment and Natural Resources, also online, Atty. Ban Mikhael C. Pacuribot, chief legal counsel of the DENR Region X--he will be joined later by Mr. Luis Paolo Masangkay; from the office of Honorable Mark Lapid from the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority or TIEZA, we have Atty. Lannie Cipres-Salazar. The National Museum of the Philippines will be represented later on by Director Jeremy Barns; and then from the Office of the National Mapping Resource and Information Authority or NAMRIA, we have Engr. Maricel De Luna, we have Engineer Erwin M. Gofredo, and also Mr. Renato Esperanza.

And, of course, we have from the Legal and Legislative Library of the Senate of the Philippines, Atty. Floyd Douglas Nicolas Pichay, the

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

IADimapilis

I-1

June 25, 2024

9:37 a.m.

3

director of the office; and the other members of the panel here, of course, we have Madam Ipat Luna, as our chair of the technical working group, and we have Atty. Kim Alib, and Atty. Asmenah. And, of course, we have Comsec Joey Tunac.

Thank you. Good morning.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Thank you, Director Suh.

I would like to get the sense of the room on the procedure you want to tackle this TWG through the--procedure can be provision per provision, but we will start first with the substantive matters, such as objectives and what do we seek to accomplish.

May I ask the resource persons to enlighten us on the historical and cultural importance of the Cagayan the Oro River and its immediate environs, and what you intend for the law to accomplish, what are the intentions for this piece of legislation?

MS. CANDAO. Madam Chair, maybe we can start with the office of Mayor Klarex Uy of Cagayan de Oro. They are online. Can we see them sa ano? We have Mr. Jesus Christopher Salon or the others like Engineer Cuenca and Mr. Licayan.

MR. SALON. Hello, good morning.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Good morning.

MR. SALON. Am I allowed to speak?

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

IADimapilis I-1 June 25, 2024 9:37 a.m. 4

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, we would like you to give us the answer to this question on the objectives and immediate historical and cultural importance, as well as the objectives and intentions for this draft legislation.

Mr. Salon, do you have—

MS. CANDAO. Sir, maybe you can just turn off your camera, and you just speak without the cam.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. May we ask the rest of the representatives from the office of the mayor if you could start this up?

MS. CANDAO. We also have Engineer Armen Cuenca, the department head of the City Local Environment and Natural Resources Office.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. While we are having technical difficulties, I just like to point out that when it says here that the Kalatungan and Kitanglad Mountain radius drains into Cagayan de Oro, maybe we should think about whether the *Sendong* catastrophe can be considered in the consideration of this bill. And whether that is included in the importance of the conservation and preservation of Cagayan de Oro River and how it is to be managed. I understand there is no—nandiyan na? Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Salon, may we hear from you now?

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

IADimapilis

I-1

June 25, 2024

9:37 a.m.

5

MR. SALON. All right, sige. Good morning, everyone.

The Cagayan River--this is from our end, from the city museum, as well as the Cagayan de Oro Historical and Cultural Commission. Iyon nga. If we start with the case of *Sendong*, so it was one of the—from our understanding na galing iyong flow from parang there is a waterspout that collided with Mount Kalatungan, which increased the water volume, which resulted to a catastrophic result.

So, on the historical side, ano po, this was mentioned by early—the name “Cagayan” was mentioned by early friars that came here in 1622. And it has been very vital, basing on the manuscript by Filomeno Bautista, the mentioning of the importance of the river, and then how it became an economic highway. And then since it was by memory of the elders, local, the river used to be teeming with flora and fauna, which was used both for a livelihood, and, at the same time, for some areas that are considered sacred, especially today by—that still being revered today by some of the Higaonon indigenous people. So iyon siya.

And then Cagayan de Oro, the namesake of the city is actually derived ... /iaad/rjo/agc

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

JTBCadaing II-1 June 25, 2024 9:47 a.m. 1

MR. SALON. ... is actually derived from the river. And then if you notice po iyong location ng colonial settlement, which is in the Gaston Park area in the city hall area, and Burgos being known to be the wealthy street. So it speaks a lot.

And then going back to *Sendong*, it is actually a repetition of history because there has been a recorded flooding as early as 1916. And then in 1916, considering that forest cover, we believe, was still quite thick, bigger, it still affected Cagayan the same as how we experienced *Sendong*. Possibly, *Sendong* might be worse because of the depleted na or decreasing natural resources or natural and endemic fauna along the banks.

So the current efforts done by the city, iyong una is the river dike, the mega dike that was constructed in partnership with JICA. And then there has been the beginning of a replanting or propagation of some of the native plants that were also mentioned in historic records such as the lambago plant, the *Hibiscus tiliaceus* or the *Talipariti tiliaceum* under that, iyon siya, which led us, in our office, to expand the study. That is why, currently, we have identified 26 native species, some of which are ideal to be replanted along the river. So far, I will still yet to draft a project on that or a partnership with the offices within the city in order to propagate them along our riverbanks.

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

JTBCadaing

II-1

June 25, 2024

9:47 a.m.

2

The objective there is to improve water quality and, at the same time, reconnect people with its natural heritage which is, in this case, the Cagayan River. So far, iyon lang muna.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. So the intention is protection and conservation and, I suppose, the best use of the river for purposes that are beneficial to the citizens of Cagayan de Oro City as well as the upper slopes.

There are prohibitions included, but I would like to invite everybody, especially the lawyers in the room, to think about how to prosecute under this because it is going to be difficult without a clear scope in terms of technical description and without clear elements of the crime because it seems to me to be vague. But at the outset, we are not yet there but start thinking about that so that we can finish the TWG with very specific recommendations on the wording. So, I would also like to invite you to start drafting wording as we proceed with the hearing.

Are there any other comments on the objectives and the intentions of this bill?

I asked the Comsec to project the map. Iyan, okay. Also, Mount Kalatungan and Mount Kitanglad ranges are also protected areas under

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

JTBCadaing

II-1

June 25, 2024

9:47 a.m.

3

the ENIPAS Act. It would be nice to project the scope of the Kalatungan and Kitanglad, I suppose.

So that one in the middle is Mount Kitanglad? Where is Kalatungan? Zoom out na lang. Zoom out so we can find Kitanglad and Kalatungan, please.

And then we would like to invite the DOT and the NHCP to also chime in on the significance of this bill.

I asked for a map because we have a letter here from Engineer Cuenca, I think who is also online, regarding the scope. That he wants it to cover—particularly to declare the whole stretch of the river which begins from Bukidnon, along the mountain ranges of Kalatungan and Kitanglad, passing through the municipalities of Baungon and Talakag, and downstream to Cagayan de Oro City as a cultural heritage zone because the river is merely at the receiving end of the drainage from these two sites.

DOT, do you have any comments on the significance of this bill?

Mr. Esmedalla.

MR. ESMEDALLA. Magandang umaga po sa lahat. Madam, if I may? Good morning once again and love the Philippines! I would just like to point out the warmth and hospitality of the team given to me

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

JTBCadaing II-1 June 25, 2024 9:47 a.m. 4

when I arrived early kasi medyo malakas ang ulan sa Cagayan de Oro, so I had to be here last night.

So again, magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat. I am Mr. Decius Esmedalla, representing our regional director as well, Director Marie Elaine S. Unchuan. And, of course, with me, si Atty. Glaiza, also from the DOT main office.

The Department of Tourism, in relation to this, is dedicated to the continual advancement of tourism development while preserving the rich cultural heritage of the region. In line with this commitment, we wholeheartedly endorse the approval of the Senate Bill 2130, entitled "An Act Declaring Cagayan de Oro River and Its Immediate Environs Located in Cagayan de Oro City, Province of Misamis Oriental, a Cultural Heritage Zone."

Cagayan de Oro boasts a diverse array of heritage sites that symbolize its cultural and historical identity. The Cagayan de Oro River, in particular, holds immense significance as a catalyst for economic, cultural, tourism, and social progress within the city. By designating it as a cultural heritage zone, we aim to safeguard its pivotal role in shaping the city's past, present, and future.

As the lifeblood of Cagayan de Oro City, the river serves as a beacon of unity, bridging livelihoods and fostering community growth.

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

JTBCadaing II-1 June 25, 2024 9:47 a.m. 5

However, it faces numerous threats, including pollution and industrialization, which may affect its integrity and functional purpose. Through the enactment of this bill, we seek to implement a comprehensive, diversified development plan that will effectively conserve, preserve, and promote the river and its environs.

Furthermore, by recognizing the Cagayan de Oro River as a cultural heritage zone, we aim to cultivate its historical and cultural landscape, thereby enhancing tourism efforts and showcasing the city's unique identity to the world. This bill presents ... /jbc/ges/agc

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

MMSuligan III-1 June 25, 2024 9:57 a.m. 1

MR. ESMEDALLA. ... This bill presents a crucial opportunity to reinforce our commitment to preserving our cultural heritage while fostering sustainable development.

The Department of Tourism stands firmly behind Senate Bill 2130. We believe that its passage will not only safeguard the Cagayan de Oro River and its surroundings, but also pave the way for future generations to appreciate and benefit from the city's rich cultural legacy. Thank you, madam.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Thank you.

May we ask the NHCP if you have any comments on the significance of the bill in general?

MS. NIERVES. Good morning, everyone.

We have just some questions regarding the Act. We would like to ask po the LGU if—since the scope is very large and it encompasses provinces like Bukidnon, is there any consultation, collaboration with other provincial local governments like the Bukidnon on how are they going to do about the proposed Act? Kasi in our understanding, once an Act is implemented, there are regulations on the developments within or, hindi ba, sa malapit sa river. So, what are the implications of this act especially when it comes to other LGUs na madadaan po noong river?

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

MMSuligan

III-1

June 25, 2024

9:57 a.m.

2

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Especially considering that the two mountain ranges are already protected areas, ano.

Does anybody want to hazard an answer to that? A guess on how to answer that question from the NHCP? What are the implications once passed? Reading from it, it is the development of a plan. Of course, the recognition of the site as a cultural heritage zone, the development of a plan, the installation of appropriate infrastructure and facilities, and a prohibition. Prohibitions against the destruction of archaeological, historical, cultural, ecological, and economic values. Which is why I asked earlier for the attorneys in this room to try and rephrase the prohibition so that it will be easier to prosecute. At this time, I don't think the draft lends itself easily to prosecution. For one thing, the conduct and execution of a survey in Section 5 is still up in the air. So, until that survey is done, it will be difficult to get a prosecution going.

Welcome, Director Barns.

THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY. Yes, ma'am. We acknowledge Director Jeremy Barns of the National Museum of the Philippines.

MR. ESMEDALLA. Madam Chair, if I may?

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, please.

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

MMSuligan III-1 June 25, 2024 9:57 a.m. 3

MR. ESMEDALLA. I think we would also like to emphasize that Mount Kitanglad is also an ASEAN heritage park. So, it is very important as well.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, thank you. And Mount Kitanglad has its own law, actually. Kalatungan has not yet. Kalatungan belongs to the ENIPAS, ano? It is determined under the ENIPAS, but Mount Kitanglad has its own law.

So having gone through that, we can go provision per provision, unless somebody wants to say anything more substantive about the general objectives of this bill.

THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY. Madam Chair.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, ma'am.

THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY. Excuse me.

We also recognize Mr. Arvin Villalon from the National Museum of the Philippines. Good morning, sir.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Can we zoom out? So that we all get a sense of the map, because north is Kitanglad, south is Kalatungan. And both of those, the river comes through here. Pakiakyat pa because Kalatungan is below. There, Kalatungan Mountains.

Baliklad. Pataas. There. Stop there, so you can see Cagayan de Oro also. Put it down a little bit. Down. Baliklad. Iyan, there, stop.

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

MMSuligan

III-1

June 25, 2024

9:57 a.m.

4

Okay, so this river goes through Talakag and Baungon before it reaches Cagayan de Oro.

Okay. DENR? May we hear from DENR, please? DENR-X?

MR. PACURIBOT. Yes po, ma'am. Good morning, everyone. This is Atty. Pacuribot of DENR-X.

Ma'am, I just would like to add a point in our discussion. The fact that there is already Republic Act 10066 which substantially protects cultural heritage and it is just a matter of declaring a certain area, a natural body of water, for instance, as part of the cultural heritage under RA 10066. Just to add a point in our discussion. Thank you.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Are you implying that there may not need to be a law for this, for the declaration of cultural heritage? For that, may we hear from the cultural agencies?

MR. BARNES. Again, good morning, everyone. Sorry that me and my colleague are running late.

Just to answer the question, strictly speaking, the gentleman is correct. A heritage zone can be declared by NCCA or NHCP in cooperation with the local government units concerned. So, since the scope of the bill is for the river within the towns of Cagayan de Oro City, I think that is correct. But, of course, we have heard many times from our legislators that they prefer to legislate such things as heritage zones,

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

MMSuligan III-1 June 25, 2024 9:57 a.m. 5

cultural tourism zones, and so on and so forth. And so we totally respect, of course, the power of the Congress to do that. So, it is really the decision of the proponents in the House and Senate, whether they want to avail of the administrative mechanism or to legislate the zones. And I think I know the answer to that already, on the part of both Senator Legarda and Congressman Rufus Rodriguez. So, it is really just a question of how explicit the scope is and what the layers, even added layers, of protection might be.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Thank you, Director.

If there are no other issues on the objectives and intentions of the bill and what the implications would be, maybe we can go provision per provision.

Let us deal first with the issue of whether it should be declared a cultural heritage and tourism zone because that is the distinction between the House bill and the Senate bills.

Do DOT regions and national have any thoughts about whether it should be in the title as a tourism zone or whether cultural heritage sites would normally already be tourism sites?

MR. BARNES. I think putting a tourism zone is also very important because it will give more impetus on the Act. Given the fact that

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

MMSuligan III-1 June 25, 2024 9:57 a.m. 6

whatever programs and projects that may be put into the context, the tourism concepts should also be applied.

So, we just want to make sure—I mean, I don't see anything that is not in consonance with the Act by putting the Tourism Zone Act, because basically, like the Cagayan River, it is one of our best resources for tourism developments. We have whitewater rafting which is basically one of our primary attractions of the city. So, I think that would be on our part, madam.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Thank you.

Apart from that, I believe there are implications to it being a tourism zone under TIEZA or tax implications ... */mms/imjv/agc*

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)
MCQUEMA-SILVOR IV-1 June 25, 2024 10:07 a.m. 1**

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. ... tax implications, other implications, import implications. May we know those implications so that the rest of us can be enlightened?

Yes, please. Does this mean that it will be under TIEZA as well?

MR. HORTELANO. Madam Chair.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, please. Go ahead.

MR. HORTELANO. Currently, under Republic Act 9593 or the Tourism Act of 2009, we actually provide—TIEZA registers tourism enterprises or tourism enterprise zones for incentives po, ma'am. So, if you are asking about the incentives portion, so normally, these are private enterprises that register under TIEZA for incentives.

So, what are the incentives? It would include income tax holiday when they import, it can also have duty-free on their importations, and then, there are also other non-fiscal incentives or benefits that can be provided. So—

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Such as DOT marketing for them, things like that?

MR. HORTELANO. Well, partly, we can also include them in roadshows or in our promotional activities, especially if they are operators in the zone that would probably require investors or locators inside those zones, ma'am.

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)
MCQUEMA-SILVOR IV-1 June 25, 2024 10:07 a.m. 2**

So, those are the incentives that TIEZA or as an investment promotion agency, particularly for tourism, provides under the CREATE Act. Kasi dati, mayroon tayong sariling incentives na ibinibigay under the Tourism Act of 2009. However, with the passage of the law and implementation of the CREATE Law, our incentive packages or benefits for these enterprises have been standardized somehow. So, whatever we provide, in terms of incentives, is also the same as PEZA, also the same as BOI, and the other investment promotion agencies.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Thank you.

Mr. Hortelano, would you have a sense of the scope? Because if Engineer Cuenca wants the zone to be all the way up to Kalatungan and Kitanglad, then it is a pretty large zone to encompass as a tourism zone for the incentives and other TIEZA responsibilities on such a tourism zone. Would you have a sense—

MR. HORTELANO. For private enterprises...

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Okay lang?

MR. HORTELANO. ...who want to establish a tourism enterprise zone, we would have at least a minimum of five hectares only. Then you can—

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. And then, maximum?

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)
MCQUEMA-SILVOR IV-1 June 25, 2024 10:07 a.m. 3**

MR. HORTELANO. There is no maximum, but for the flagship TEZs that the government initiates, at least 50 hectares.

[informal discussion]

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Thank you. We were informed that Congressman Rodriguez, during the public hearing, wants only a Cagayan de Oro scope.

MR. HORTELANO. Okay.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. So, that is one consideration, and let us discuss that first in this TWG—what the pros and cons are of including that.

I think Engineer Cuenca is saying this because he wants to cover the threat of flooding and pollution from Kalatungan and Kitanglad, but they are already covered by ENIPAS and the specific law of Mount Kitanglad.

So, any thoughts on whether it should be all the way up or whether it should be the river in Cagayan de Oro only?

MR. PICHAY. Madam Chair.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes?

MR. PICHAY. Madam Chair, if I may.

We have established that the objective of the bill is to protect the river, and the environs, and the ecological system of that river from one

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)
MCQUEMA-SILVOR IV-1 June 25, 2024 10:07 a.m. 4**

point to the other. And there is also some kind of feedback that we have that the sponsor of the bill wishes to limit the scope or jurisdiction of this law.

May I, therefore, respectfully suggest that maybe we can figure out which, along the area of the river, is already protected by law so that we can, in good conscience, say that we will only protect this area because this area is the one that needs our protection most. So, if we can do that, then maybe we can say, we do not have to bring this law to this area because it is already protected here. It is not protected here. It is quite protected. And then we can figure out the jurisdiction that the law will take.

Thank you, Your Honor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Thank you, Atty. Pichay.

May we request DENR X, if you have a map of the protected areas that you can project, share screen?

MR. PACURIBOT. Ma'am, can we have a few minutes to gather the—

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, please. Yes, that is perfectly fine. We are just warning you that we are going to ask for it.

MR. PACURIBOT. Opo, ma'am.

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)
MCQUEMA-SILVOR IV-1 June 25, 2024 10:07 a.m. 5**

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. So, any other thoughts as to this while we are waiting for the DENR to show us the protected areas?

As far as I understand, it does not reach all the way up to the river. The jurisdiction of Kalatungan and Kitanglad are only on the mountains themselves, but if you protect the mountain, if your threat is flooding, then it has to be considered. But the other threat, of course, is domestic wastewater and erosion from the private lands beneath the protected areas that are now devoted to plantations of pineapple, banana, and other crops because those types of plantations do cause the erosion of the farms and the pollution of the river, phosphate-wise, in terms of fertilizer, for example.

So, for that, I think we might have to call another technical working group to determine first the scope because—We have NAMRIA here.

NAMRIA representatives, may we ask if you have a potential map of what should be included and whether you think we should wait for your map before we pass this technical working group draft to the Committee. Because Section 5 says we still have to draw it up and—

MR. PICHAY. Madam Chair, that is also my observation: That Section 5 states in most of the drafts of the bill—I am referring to the draft of the House of Representatives 8064—it says that the DENR shall

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

MCQUEMA-SILVOR IV-1 June 25, 2024 10:07 a.m. 6

conduct and execute a survey to determine the actual metes and bounds of the protected area. It is my considered view that this section might be challenged on its constitutionality because it is an undue delegation of legislative power.

What I am saying is that the metes and bounds should already be determined in this House so that there will be no question as to which area is protected and which area is excluded. So, I think the map is very important.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, precisely, because for prosecution purposes, if there are prohibited acts, you have to say that it is within the metes and bounds. And the fiscal has to prove that it is within the metes and bounds, and this cannot be done if it is not in the law. There can be defenses against any prosecution for these violations unless they are clear.

May we ask, Engineer De Luna, what your thoughts are on having a map and whether we can have technical descriptions ... /cbqs/peg/agc

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**
IADimapilis I-2 June 25, 2024 10:17 a.m. 1

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. ... technical descriptions for this bill before we pass this on to the Committee, back to the Committee.

MS. DE LUNA. With the bound on the map that we are going to prepare, it will be depending on what is required with this act. We all have the data that we can provide, but the boundary will always depend on the requirement, and with the technical description, it will also come with the ano, what is inside the act itself.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. So, I suppose it will have to be determined within a TWG what the bounds are.

MS. DE LUNA. Yes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. And we have to determine first whether it is just Cagayan de Oro or whether it reaches up to the protected areas; Mount Kalatungan and Mount Kitanglad.

Any further thoughts on this before we move on? If we can determine that today that will be, I guess, best so that we can guide NAMRIA as to what technical descriptions to plot that down.

Yes, please.

MR. VILLALON. Yes. Good morning, Madam Chair.

These are just thoughts regarding our involvement—was involved with the NCCA cultural mapping for the socio-cultural mapping of the

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

IADimapilis I-2 June 25, 2024 10:17 a.m. 2

ASEAN Heritage Parks, and part of that is also Mount Kitanglad for the DENR.

And I was looking through, browsing through the proposal that if we are going to expand the proposal to include, of course, Mount Kitanglad, Kalatungan mountains, the indigenous peoples were quite strong about how they felt about this, their own heritage. Since we are talking about heritage zones, this will have to include the indigenous knowledge systems and practices. In fact, it is the jurisdiction. It is a declared ancestral domain. So, it is going to be expanded up to the tributaries and the headwaters of the Cagayan de Oro River, that means that the communities that are within these tributaries would have to be included or involved or consulted.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. [off-mike] Yes.

MR. VILLALON. Yes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, thank you.

I think DENR Region X is ready. Could you share screen for a map of the—coverage on the protected areas there already?

MR. PACURIBOT. Sige po, ma'am.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. And then just prepare Cagayan de Oro representatives, the city representatives.

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

IADimapilis I-2 June 25, 2024 10:17 a.m. 3

Can you give us a sense of whether you want it just within your city or extending to the top? Because Mr. Cuenca is the representative of your city here, and he wants it all the way to the headwaters. Is that a common position of the city?

Ready na ba iyong DENR X, or si Mr. Salon muna? Okay. Can we hear from Mr. Salon? Okay.

Mr. Salon, after this map, we can hear from you.

MR. PACURIBOT. Hello po, ma'am. Is the map already on the screen, ma'am?

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Not the map, but the first slide of your slide deck. There. Okay.

MR. PACURIBOT. Ito po iyon, ma'am. Yes, ma'am.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The bottom one is Mount Kalatungan.

MR. PACURIBOT. Yes po, ma'am.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, continue, please, Attorney.

MR. PACURIBOT. Yes po, ma'am.

We can see here that it covers a number of municipalities, and most of them are from Bukidnon. We have primarily three from Bukidnon, and we also have a portion of Lanao del Norte. We have Iligan

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

IADimapilis I-2 June 25, 2024 10:17 a.m. 4

City, which is also part of this big river basin, the Kalatungan and the Kitanglad mountain ranges, ma'am.

So, yes, I agree with the observation that it may complicate the bill and the applicability of the bill if we cover all the river basins, and also, it may overlap also eventually with the councils already created for the protection of these river basins.

And if I may add also, ma'am, it would be best for the LGU of Cagayan de Oro to present also their Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs), if it will not be in conflict with this bill. Because based on the wordings of the bill, it covers the environs which necessarily means dry lands. And based on our law, if it is a river, we follow the Water Code, and, however, if we go beyond those few meters under the Water Code, it will now depend on the usage allowed by the LGU. So that is just my suggestion, ma'am.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Thank you, Attorney.

So, the top part is just Cagayan de Oro City. The areas with the green and the lines are the coverage of the protected areas, ASEAN heritage for Mount Kitanglad, as well as its own law as a protected area, and below, there is Mount Kalatungan. So, the river is not included in

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

IADimapilis I-2 June 25, 2024 10:17 a.m. 5

both protected areas, but DENR thinks that it should be Cagayan de Oro City only.

Mr. Salon?

MR. SALON. Yes po. Opo.

Actually, although it is—how do you call this? I think we see it as apt na within the bounds of the city lang iyong ano, legislation. Pero I believe, and I think Engineer Cuenca is with me and it is that ano, I believe that it will only be a portion of the solution in the protection of the river. Well, if we base the information on Google Map alone, the river, when we say Cagayan de Oro River, it actually stretches way up until Talakag, Bukidnon, it was determined na it really is closer to Kalatungan. With the bill, which is already in a bigger scope, if we follow the title Cagayan de Oro River, it would encompass Talakag already. Opo. And within the province of Bukidnon. So ganoon po.

And then, moreover, basing on studies from biologists, which is housed in Cagayan de Oro, in our universities here, na they have been proposing for a ridge to reef na rehabilitation project, and it has been done, and it needs to be sustained more in order to assure the protection of the river. So that is how I see it, ano po. Kasi it is not—I believe that it is not enough to solve the protection of the river if within the city, within the bounds lang of the city. So, we need partnership with

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

IADimapilis I-2 June 25, 2024 10:17 a.m. 6

neighboring provinces and municipalities to really see the sustainability of this legislation or this plan.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. If that is the sense of the city in unison, then I think there has to be some discussion between the city and Congressman Rufus Rodriguez before we proceed on that issue because that has to be settled. The TWG will probably not be in the best position to make that determination at this time. Although it is true that when you talk of Cagayan de Oro River, and there is a law for Cagayan de Oro River, it refers to the entire river. It will probably have to be, if we focus on the city, it will probably have to be titled Cagayan de Oro River. Yes, it is here. It is in his bill that it is—well, it says it is located in Cagayan de Oro City ... */jaad/smv/agc*

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

JTBCadaing II-2 June 25, 2024 10:27 a.m. 1

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. ... located in Cagayan de Oro City.

May we ask the city to have a caucus with the congressman on this, so that you can resolve it on the level of the local? And bring us your result on the next TWG?

May we ask NAMRIA to already join that caucus? So that by the time we have a next TWG, we already have a map, if that is possible? Can we have an agreement, please, the city and NAMRIA and—okay. So I guess—there it is.

Okay, since we are going to have our next TWG, we will have a little bit more time to study this further, if it is going to be a cultural heritage zone.

I would really like to know what the cultural significance of this is to the indigenous peoples. It was intimated earlier that it is sacred. Which part, if there is any? Do they treat it the same way, as the Ganges, for example? What are the rituals? What are the beliefs that surround this? What is the story of the Cagayan de Oro River?

Who do we ask that from? Is NCIP in the room? NHCP, hindi.

Okay, is it possible to request that information, so we are in full appreciation?

Yes, the National Museum, please.

MR. SALON. [garbled audio]

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

JTB Cadaing II-2 June 25, 2024 10:27 a.m. 2

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. Salon, we will hear from Mr. Villalon, first, and then we will call you.

MR. SALON. Yes.

In as far as data is concerned, with the sociocultural mapping of Mount Kitanglad, it was identified that part of it is. Actually, not necessarily Cagayan de Oro River as the Cagayan de Oro River.

But, of course, they hold rituals. The Higaonon people, the Talaandig people would hold rituals. Of course, some of their practices are related to both water and land. And knowing about the indigenous peoples is quite a holistic perspective, in terms of how they view resources, and also the land as something sacred.

So, I think they are quite strong on it, about the protection, because it is part of their history and their tradition.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. But that will be a consideration when we determine the scope because I have not heard of the Talaandig and the Higaonon reaching all the way down to the delta itself. But that probably is their time immemorial range; there must be something. So, maybe we will dig up a little bit more of the indigenous heritage in this Cagayan de Oro River area—of the city itself, so that we can determine whether it will just remain in the city, or all the way up to the mountains.

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

JTBCadaing II-2 June 25, 2024 10:27 a.m. 3

For your information, in a project that I was in before, we tried to determine the ecological services that Mount Kalatungan provided. And that the City of Cagayan de Oro was supposed to have an ordinance for the payment of environmental services for the indigenous peoples of Mount Kalatungan to reforest there. So, payments of 5,000 per hectare per year, so that they could keep the forests fully vegetated to protect Cagayan de Oro from rampaging floodwaters.

During that time, we had a big 3D map of the entire range, both the ranges. And somebody poured water on both the ranges, just to give us a full sense of what would happen. And the entire Cagayan de Oro city was flooded in that 3D map.

So just to give you a sense of why it was possible to determine whether Cagayan de Oro had environmental services that they were enjoying, to pay for the reforestation and the forest conservation in Mount Kalatungan and Kitanglad. It was a disaster reduction payment.

And since we have passed the Philippine Ecosystem Natural Capital Accounting System Act, it is very relevant. Because the investments in Cagayan de Oro may have to consider that their investments can only be protected, if they also invest in the reforestation of the two mountains. Otherwise, they are really prone to flooding.

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

JTBCadaing II-2 June 25, 2024 10:27 a.m. 4

May I ask the city, if the middle island is already reoccupied, or if you have already declared that to be without human settlements?

Mr. Salon, do you have an answer?

MR. SALON. The middle island is what we call the "Isla de Oro." It is actually visible presently na, there is no more habitation. Rather it is subject for part of the—parang, if I am not mistaken, it is part of the buffer zone. So, some of the river na native plants will be propagated in that area. So, the communities there have been relocated. And then I think there is no more new, parang, informal settlement in the area.

So, that will be part of what we are drafting, and what we are endorsing to the city council for the propagation of natural, native, and endemic flora that is with cultural significance to the river.

And then also, we have some documentations and interviews with indigenous leaders and spiritual leaders that there are existing rituals. So, one of the major rituals that we have documented is the Pamulalakaw—which is the ritual for the river—which is in the Ugyaban area and Dansolihon, which is their cleansing ritual in preparation for farming. And then they also have the ritual in Cagayan, the Kalambaguhan ritual, which is actually at the area near the Ysalina Bridge, considering that area is the site of both the creation of the Kalambaguhan settlement during the Spanish period.

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

JTBCadaing II-2 June 25, 2024 10:27 a.m. 5

And, at the same time, we have the peace ritual between the Maranao and the local natives mixed with Bisaya migrants, and also Christianized and non-Christianized Higaonons, which is interesting. Because during the city fiesta, before the river procession for San Agustin, there is a ritual being performed the day before or the night or the afternoon before, which is called the "Panalaspas," to seek permission to the spirits of the river to protect all the people or the devotees of Saint Augustine in the following morning.

So, there is a blend of two cultures—the pre-colonial or the non-Christian ritual, in order to protect the Christian devotees—because both share the same river, and both might have different perspectives of how the river should be perceived. So that, for me, is something interesting.

And then, it is unfortunate na the Higaonons are the ones adjusting, basing on ano ba ang—may nakauna ba? Or are there things like, for example, I talked to one of the shamans na every March 7 is the Pamulalakaw ritual. But traditionally, it is not March 7. The Pamulalakaw ritual should be done either towards the end of December or the early January. But they had to move it ... /jbc/mjp/agc

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

MMSuligan III-2 June 25, 2024 10:37 a.m. 1

MR. SALON. ... they had to move it because they needed some financial support in order to acquire like the pig--sacrificial animals--pigs, chickens and other expenses. So the only time that the funding, according to the Baylan, it can be given is already in later February so they had to move it every March. So, ganoon siya, they had to adjust ganoon po for them to maintain the tradition. And I believe there are still many more rituals and belief systems and other cultural customs and practices na still would be interesting to revive or discover.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Highlight.

MR. SALON. Yes, highlight, Madam.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Thank you, Mr. Salon. That is very enlightening.

So, if we summarize the cultural communities involved, it will be Higaonon, Talaandig, and you are saying folk religiosity interspersed with Catholicism? Is that--Am I--

MR. SALON. Yes po. Because given that the city has been a melting pot, ma'am, since the beginning of the Spanish colony, it has become a melting pot, a mixed of native Higaonons, Maranaos, and then other settlers, even Talaandig.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Thank you.

MR. BARNES. Attorney.

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

MMSuligan III-2 June 25, 2024 10:37 a.m. 2

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, Director Barns.

MR. BARNES. When you are finished with JC, if I could comment?

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, I think we are finished.

MR. BARNES. Yes. Atty. Luna, it is great that Mr. Salon of the city museum is with us because I did want to convey to the group that the National Museum is not very familiar with the area. If we look at our records, the major site or activity that comes up was to the late '70s at '80s, the Huluga archaeological site within the city boundary and what is today, like near the Pelaez Bridge in the Southern Diversion Road. And I wanted to--and that was an important site. But in recent decades, it has been developed. So I don't think there is anything to safeguard anymore, and I wanted JC to perhaps confirm that to us. And to also comment on whether there are archaeological sites or suspected sites along the river within the bounds of the city that need attention or should be explored.

And then beyond that, I was going to say that, you know, we are happy to have the CDO Museum and we have heard how knowledgeable JC is about the area and the heritage of the river.

So, as National Museum, unless the Committee would like us to go there and spend time there, we would totally be happy to defer to their comments because they certainly have the knowledge and the

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

MMSuligan III-2 June 25, 2024 10:37 a.m. 3

presence that we, in the National Museum, unfortunately, don't for Cagayan de Oro City.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. May we have an answer from Mr. Salon on the question of the developed area whether there is still some--

MR. SALON. Yes. It is unfortunate that it was in the early 2000 that there was a development in the area, particularly in the open site which was actually in its geographical characteristic is actually should have been worth protecting and it is a tourism opportunity.

I am not sure as to the details on why there was a disagreement between the people concerned with the significance of the area and the vision of the city at that time. Was it the administration at that time? However, most of those that were collected in that area, most importantly, I believe, is the one that was collected by, if I'm not mistaken, Dr. Jesus Peralta in the early 1970's and followed suit by Dr. Bautista in the later years which are currently in-house of the museum that was established by Father Demetrio, the Museo de Oro in Xavier University. And our city museum now also has some of the pieces of the Huluga open site.

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

MMSuligan III-2 June 25, 2024 10:37 a.m. 4

So, there are three museums: our city museum and then two university museums, Xavier and Capitol University have those collections on display.

And we are thinking, in behalf of the HisCom (Historical and Cultural Commission) to find ways to somehow memorialize the site, to memorialize the archaeological site and many other archaeological sites that were identified by the National Museum and since we were able to have a list of the site, serial number or the accession record of each archaeological site. So, in order to consider that in the city's heritage protection, future protection policies. So, ganoon siya. So iyon.

So, the Huluga Cave is still there. It is still there, the rock shelter which for now it is protected because it is difficult to access. But then again it is only a matter of time that it will be, you know, fell victim to vandalism and other activities that would damage its importance.

MR. BARNES. So, JC, it is Jeremy Barnes here.

MR. SALON. Yes.

MR. BARNES. So if we go ahead, if the TWG, as it does its work, could we still cite the Huluga Cave as a major feature of the proposed CDO River Heritage Zone? Because that is our main prehistoric site, unless I am mistaken, please correct me. That is our main prehistoric

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

MMSuligan III-2 June 25, 2024 10:37 a.m. 5

site before we move into living indigenous traditions and, of course, the colonial era, hindi ba, JC?

MR. SALON. Yes. Actually, on my standpoint, I believe it is a very important archaeological site, especially that it is situated near the city. Whether or not it is the Himologan settlement, the fact remains that there are early settlers, early settlements which is evidenced by archaeological findings, and it is Huluga being the bigger--

MR. BARNS. Yes. Just for the information of everyone, we are talking around fourth, fifth century AD, right, JC?

MR. SALON. Yes, yes. At least 350 AD.

MR. BARNS. Yes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. So, I think the question earlier was since this is a cave, is the cave still existing?

MR. BARNS. Apparently, yes.

JC?

MR. SALON. Yes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. So, it is there. And when you say "developed," the area was developed, that just means the surrounding area and not--

MR. SALON. The cave area, fortunately, is not within the development, so it is near the open site, the Huluga open site. So the

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

MMSuligan III-2 June 25, 2024 10:37 a.m. 6

open site was the one that was subjected to infrastructure development. But the cave, it is a few meters away from the bridge site. So it is still there and there is no signs of any disturbances in the area.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. DENR X raised its hand. There is a Caves Act as well, so maybe DENR can enlighten us on the relationship of the Caves Act with this existing archaeological wonder.

MR. PACURIBOT. Yes ma'am. I am supposed to bring that out because there was a study conducted by our people here in DENR X, the imprimatur of Congressman Rufus also regarding those caves. But my concern really, ma'am, is the map where this proposed cultural heritage sites are located because some of the lines immediately beside the river are already issued with tenurial instruments by the DENR. I have an idea already where those sites are, but just to be sure, maybe in the next TWG ... /mms/rjo/agc

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

MCQUEMA-SILVOR IV-2 June 25, 2024 10:47 a.m. 1

MR. PACURIBOT. ... maybe in the next TWG, we can have a definite map that will tell us—I mean, I will have it laid out also in our own map here so that there will be no conflict, and we will recommend to the director for the culling out of the heritage sites from the tenured areas, ma'am.

That is all, ma'am. Thank you.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Would the DENR like to join the caucus that we have asked the city, NAMRIA, and the office of Congressman Rodriguez?

MR. PACURIBOT. Yes, ma'am. We can do that, ma'am.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Okay. Thank you.

Having said that, maybe the DENR can also come up with a proposed provision on property rights inside the scope that you will determine. And possibly, we are going to ask the same caucus group to determine jurisdictions or the institutional arrangements.

Right now, the bills do not create any institutional arrangement and put the mandate in existing entities, particularly the city and DOT—and most agencies. The city is supposed to be the one that creates the development plan, but based on what the caucus will come up with, then you can suggest the institutional arrangement and jurisdictions that come with the scope that will be determined.

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)
MCQUEMA-SILVOR IV-2 June 25, 2024 10:47 a.m. 2**

So may I ask those that are requesting that it cover all the way up to Mount Kalatungan and Kitanglad parts of the river that you imagine what the institutional arrangement can then be?

I have also a few considerations that I would like to point out: sewerage. The DPWH has a fund to reduce the domestic sewage that goes into water bodies, and it is particularly meant for highly urbanized cities. I think Cagayan de Oro is one of them. Therefore, there is money under the NSSMP, the National Sewerage and Septage Management Program, for this if we want to think about how to conserve the river.

Would we know from the city whether you have a sewerage system and a septage treatment plant already and what is the population that will require this?

Is Mr. Cuenca actually on the Zoom or anyone from—the CPDO would be the one to answer this, I think, if there is a—

Mr. Kevin Mugot, is there already a sewerage or septage treatment plant or are we talking an entire highly urbanized city discharging domestic wastewater into Cagayan de Oro River?

MR. MUGOT. Good morning. Good morning, everyone. I am Kevin Mugot from the city planning office.

Actually, in the topic of sewerage and septage systems of the Cagayan de Oro City, there is a proposal. It is not yet constructed, but

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

MCQUEMA-SILVOR IV-2 June 25, 2024 10:47 a.m. 3

there is a proposal, and the city is working on it right now as to the location, to be finalized. And I think Engineer Cuenca can give more details to this, but as far as plans for CDO septage and sewerage, there is a proposal, ma'am.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. I am sorry to be direct, but am I hearing that there is none at this time?

MR. MUGOT. Citywide, yes, ma'am. I think, as far as I know, there is none existing at this moment.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Thank you very much.

Yes. Does anybody else think that this has to be part of the legislation, or will you just do it separately from it being a cultural heritage zone? [laughter]

There is mention of pollution, so I think, yes, it is very relevant. And just to share that one of the difficulties all the time for locating sewerage treatment plants and septage treatment plants is that they have to be at sea level because they have to gather the sewage from the sewage pipes by gravity. Otherwise, you will have to pump the sewage up. So there needs to be some kind of expropriation power for whoever will establish this sewage treatment plant along the river. So that is one consideration that I would like everybody to think about

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

MCQUEMA-SILVOR IV-2 June 25, 2024 10:47 a.m. 4

because I would hate for this bill to pass, and then we did not think of the domestic wastewater.

What is the population of Cagayan de Oro City? Two hundred thousand?

May we know what the population of Cagayan de Oro City is?

MS. CANDAO. [off-mike] Si Mr. Esmedalla.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. Esmedalla.

MR. ESMEDALLA. I think, approximately, it is 800,000.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Wooh! Blown away kami. So that is nearly a million people's wastewater not being treated.

I think, in the next TWG, let us see what the status of the proposal is. If you are not asking for the 50 percent share of the national government through the DPWH, please do. It is going to be an expensive sewerage system if it is for 800,000 people.

I guess my last consideration that I would like to point out, that we may have to think about so that we are prepared for the next TWG. In New Zealand, the Whanganui River is considered a person legally with two guardians appointed to advance its interests as a legal person. This is a concept of law that accords personhood to a natural ecosystem because it has to continue to exist separate from the rights of human beings, and it compares personhood as something that you accord to

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

MCQUEMA-SILVOR IV-2 June 25, 2024 10:47 a.m. 5

corporations. If corporations, which are for profit, are accorded personhood, why shouldn't we accord personhood to ecosystems and water bodies?

So, for now, 2017 was when New Zealand declared personhood for the Whanganui River. I hope next TWG, we can have proposed provisions that can address these considerations or not, if it is not something that you want. At least it is part of the considerations that we take into account for.

Is it possible also to have a caucus for determining the prohibitions? Right now, it says—

Sorry. Yes, DENR, please.

MR. PACURIBOT. Hi, ma'am. I mentioned earlier about the councils governing Tagoloan and CDO river basins. Now, if I may suggest, can we have their say also on this bill, particularly that it is headed by the archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro? Do they have something to say about this, in the jurisdiction and operational aspect also, ma'am? Maybe in the next TWG meeting.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes. We would like the Comsec to please invite the watershed council headed by the archdiocese. This is a multisectoral body that actually is the only one that, so far, has some

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

MCQUEMA-SILVOR IV-2 June 25, 2024 10:47 a.m. 6

level of authority or jurisdiction over the river that extends all the way up to the protected areas. Thank you, DENR.

Would you know if there are titles in Isla de Oro?

MR. PACURIBOT. So far, ma'am, wala na po, ma'am. And it is already cleared from people there because of the recent—

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. *Sendong.*

MR. PACURIBOT. There is a project already, ma'am, funded by the Japanese government, through JICA, and it is already almost finished. Wala na, ma'am. Wala nang tao sa area.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. No, no, titles. I mean, if we have to address legal titles through—

MR. PACURIBOT. Sorry. Yes. I do not know any titles issued there, ma'am. So far, wala pa naman pong ano.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. So informal settlements iyong mga nandoon?

MR. PACURIBOT. Yes po, ma'am. Yes po.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Thank you.

My principal, at the last hearing ... /cbqs/ges/agc

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

IADimapilis I-3 June 25, 2024 10:57 a.m. 1

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. ... My principal at the last hearing asked whether this will be the first river that we intend to declare as a cultural heritage site. We will be setting a precedent and implications on the Pasig River, San Juan River and, of course, the Cagayan Valley rivers will be relevant, especially in light of Whanganui River, the personhood issue. I suppose this TWG is not the one that will answer this, but if it is going to be a precedent, then we need to determine very well how to attack this situation.

So, may I go back to the prohibitions? Any lawyers here who want to chime in on how to—or should we just form a caucus for this?

Currently, it says, "Any person or entity which shall cause destruction to the archeological, historical, cultural, ecological, and economic values of the Cagayan de Oro River"—we will have to prosecute 800,000 people. Because without the sewerage and septage system, they all—[laughter] There, right? So, this prohibition is not going to work, I think.

Can we have a caucus of attorneys that will determine the specific violations that can be encompassed by the bill, as the TWG will report back to the Committee? Kung wala pong volunteers, 'di kami na lang? [laughter] Kami na lang muna.

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

IADimapilis I-3 June 25, 2024 10:57 a.m. 2

But could you please—if you have any thoughts on what threatens Cagayan de Oro River so that we can craft it into prohibitions, please submit it to the Committee so that we can craft the appropriate prohibitions for it. But at this point, this is really not going to work. No prosecutor is going to find it easy to prosecute under this currently vague prohibition. Apologies to the drafters. Okay.

I suppose we tackled a lot of this already. Any other—sino? Yes, please, Gessa. CDO? Mr. Mugot, yes.

MR. MUGOT. Yes. Good morning once again, Madam Chair.

On the topic of regulations, it is very timely that Cagayan de Oro is updating its CLUP, its Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and as you all know already that the CLUP has the zoning ordinance as its enabling mechanism. So, when we're talking about prohibitions, it's in there in the zoning ordinance. And today, as of now, we are still drafting, it is updating. And the river, Cagayan de Oro River, is primarily in the water zone of CDO, and expanding in its mere environs. It is a buffer zone and some parts of it are tourism zones. So, that's its primary bay zone. It has its own allowable, prohibited, and permissible uses. And aside from that main bay zone, there are also overlay zones—overlay zones such as a flood overlay zone, a regulated land use zone. As na-mention just a while ago that areas within the floodwall, the Japan-funded dike is

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

IADimapilis I-3 June 25, 2024 10:57 a.m. 3

considered regulated land use. So, there are already prohibitions not to build anything within the dikes of the Cagayan de Oro River. So, if ever we are to finalize the prohibitions of this Act, I think it should be included in the focus group discussion because the CLUP only covers CDO, Cagayan de Oro, and if we are to expand upland in the other municipalities, I think there will be more regulations that will be involved.

So, that's all, Madam Chair. Thank you.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Thank you, Mr. Mugot.

But if there are already prohibitions in the zoning ordinance, those will already be covered by local legislation, and you will probably have sufficient authority and personnel to file those cases. But I think we are talking here about higher penalties because the city can only penalize up to one year, right? One year, if I remember correctly, and five—tumaas na yata iyong levels ng penalties, but I think it is only up to that level. But you can also withhold the permits necessary for those that are in violation. So, on top of that, for the national level legislation, we would like to know what prohibitions we want, and that will also depend on the scope that is determined by the caucus group.

We will also support the meeting of the caucus group, if you would like us to help. Just let us know how our office—and maybe the Comsec

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

IADimapilis I-3 June 25, 2024 10:57 a.m. 4

can provide a room or a Zoom or anything like that so we can record what happens in the caucus, unless we want it already on the next TWG.

But it is better that they can report it. Yes, okay.

All right. Anything else? I think we cannot go much further.

Yes, please.

MS. MARCELO. Hello, good morning. This is Atty. Daphne Marcelo. I am a consultant for the Office of Senator Joel Villanueva.

But just speaking to, perhaps, the question posed by the honorable chairperson, the principal—our TWG chairperson, that this measure might set a precedent, right, for other rivers.

One thing that comes to mind just recently is, for instance, the Pasig River, there are significant oppositions to infrastructure development, particularly the PAREX Project. So, I'm not certain, and I cannot speak for—whether there are impending or upcoming similar developments in CDO River. But then going to the prohibitions and the need for a caucus to further define what acts will constitute, you know, a violation of Sections 4 and 5, what activities precisely will detract from the different values, I think, in the bill, one version that I read is the ecological, archeological, and all that. We can consider also activities that may not have been traditionally considered to be destructive because they were, from the more conservative perspective, aiding

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

IADimapilis I-3 June 25, 2024 10:57 a.m. 5

towards development, like the building of an expressway, *et cetera*. But we may consider that as well, just for the caucus. Thank you.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. I was suggesting a separate caucus.

MS. MARCELO. Yes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. And if possible, may the office of the senator be included in the caucus for determining the prohibition?

One attorney from the cultural agencies, possibly, to join that caucus? Sino kaya ang puwede ninyong ialay? [laughter] Okay. Kung wala po—

MR. BARNES. May attorney na po sa office ni Chair Ino. So, I think NHCP would agree that NCCA should be tapped first, since they have the whole-of-sector approach.

So, if that's all right with you, Atty. Luna, maybe your office could request from NCCA chair's office.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. NCCA is here. May we have a lawyer from NCCA represent the cultural agencies for the caucus? So, Office of Senator Villanueva, Office of Senator Legarda. We will also ask the Office of Congressman Rufus, and then NCCA.

DENR, gusto ninyong sumali ... /iaad/imjv/agc

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

JTBCadaing II-3 June 25, 2024 11:07 a.m. 1

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. ... DENR, gusto ninyong sumali sa prohibitions?

MR. PACURIBOT. Yes, ma'am. Puwede po, ma'am.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Okay, salamat.

Mr. Polangco, can we have a name of—?

MR. POLANGCO. Good morning po, Madam Chair.

Atty. Angelica Cabrera po and staff from the Cultural Properties Regulation Division will join po the caucus.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Thank you very much.

With that, are there any final issues that you want dealt with for our next TWG?

Would anybody like to already set the next TWG so that the caucuses can have a deadline? Suggestions? Is it going to be July, next week? [laughter] Oo, magtu-Twentieth Congress na.

Comsec, anong gusto ninyo?

THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY. Before 21.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Between 15 to 18?

THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY. July 11 iyong—

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Iyong Quiapo.

July 15, anyone? July 15, okay.

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

JTBCadaing II-3 June 25, 2024 11:07 a.m. 2

Please pencil it, July 15 for the next TWG, and July 16?

THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY. Ma'am, July 16 darating iyong staff ni Congressman Rufus.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. July 16 na lang—Dadating pa lang sila, so 17.

THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY. Yes, ma'am.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Or pagdating nila, uuwi pa silang Cagayan de Oro? So, sa hapon, baka bago sila umuwi; habang nandito pa sila. Ano, 17, morning?

Okay, 17th, morning. So, may we ask the caucuses to please have something ready a week before the 17th, to give them time to rest. 9:30 in the morning on July 17.

MS. CANDAO. That is Wednesday.

Who will organize the caucus po? Should it be the Cagayan de Oro City?

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. For the scope, it should be the Committee—No, I think the Committee can organize but since the bills only focus on Cagayan de Oro City, but the city wants it to be changed, the city should take the lead. But the Committee will support the caucus.

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

JTBCadaing II-3 June 25, 2024 11:07 a.m. 3

Okay, we can also invite the local government of Bukidnon in the caucus because if we are covering that scope, then they should also know. So, may we ask the city to coordinate with the Comsec to convene the caucuses?

The city, for the scope. But for the prohibitions, sinong lead? Maybe we can ask the staff of Senator Koko to also join the caucus.

Comsec, can we please ask the Office of Senator Koko to join? Tapos who will take point on the prohibitions? Kayo na?

MS. CANDAO. Kasi kung i-Zoom na lang, ma'am, the caucuses?

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, I think Zoom would be better.

So, for the prohibitions—?

MR. HORTELANO. Just a suggestion.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, please.

MR. HORTELANO. Yes. Ma'am, just a suggestion for the scope. Since it covers already inter-LGUs, most probably it would be nice to invite also NEDA, especially Region X, because they have the regional development plan in that area. So, it would be nice how it is currently master planned or planned in terms of the regional plan because they also follow the ridge-to-reef approach anyway.

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

JTBCadaing II-3 June 25, 2024 11:07 a.m. 4

So, from those mountains in Kalatungan and then Kitanglad up to the bay, most probably, they have also masterplan or at least they have a development plan already for that.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Okay.

MR. HORTELANO. So that it also, like, align—

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. We can align the RDC. Yes, we can invite NEDA. But we still have no lead for the prohibitions.

Atty. Pacuribot, gusto mo bang mag-lead sa prohibitions? Sanay kayo sa prosecution, mas alam ninyo kung anong dapat ilagay at saka iyong hindi natin magamit sa mga original NIPAS at Wildlife Act prohibitions.

MR. PACURIBOT. Ma'am, we are ready to help. Pero sorry talaga, ma'am, we cannot take the lead. I suggest, ma'am, baka puwedeng office ni Cong Rufus. We can coordinate with them.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Sigie, we will ask the Office of Congressman Rufus. Yes, thank you, we will ask the Office of Congressman Rufus.

But siguro i-dribble na namin between us—Senator Koko, Senator Villanueva, and our office—kung hindi talaga. Senator Zubiri is from Bukidnon. I-invite ninyo na rin iyong staff ni Senator Zubiri.

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

JTBCadaing II-3 June 25, 2024 11:07 a.m. 5

The scope caucus will convene by Zoom on July 9 at 10:00 a.m. So, please put that in your calendars already. It is not penciled in; it is the set date for the caucus on scope. And then for the prohibitions, we will rely on the Office of Congressman Rufus to take the lead and determine the date prior to the 17th.

Let us summarize who will be involved in the scope and who will be invited for the caucus. It will be Cagayan de Oro City, the Office of Congressman Rufus Rodriguez, NEDA, the cultural agencies—would it be NCCA?—the NCCA, NAMRIA, and DENR-Region X. So, the staff of Senator Zubiri and Senator Koko Pimentel.

For the prohibitions, the staff and/or consultant of Senator Villanueva, staff of Senator Loren Legarda, staff of Congressman Rufus Rodriguez, staff na rin of Senators Koko and Zubiri. And who else wants to join the prohibitions, those that can identify the threats? It cannot be only us; we do not know the threats very well.

DENR, yes. Okay, Atty. Pacuribot. Thank you.

NCCA.

MS. CANDAO. Yes, NCCA.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, we already have the name—
Atty. Angelica, okay.

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

JTBCadaing II-3 June 25, 2024 11:07 a.m. 6

So, Kim, did you get that? Okay, so we have the names of the caucus members.

The caucus for the scope can meet on the 9th of July and the caucus for the prohibitions will depend on Congressman Rufus Rodriguez. But if not, let us also have this on the 9th of July in the afternoon. Okay, tentatively on the 9th of July in the afternoon for the caucus on—Pag natapos sila sa scope, ituloy na natin sa kabilang caucus.

Okay, shall we adjourn?

Any last-minute comments, thoughts, opinions? ... /jbc/peg/agc

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEES ON TOURISM; AND FINANCE (TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP)**

MMSuligan III-3 June 25, 2024 11:17 a.m. 1

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. ... last minute comments, thoughts, opinions? Mayroon pa bang bumabagabag sa inyo tungkol dito? Okay.

July 9, 10:00 o'clock for the scope; July 9, 1:30 for the prohibition. All in Zoom, to be invited and setup by the Comsec. For the prohibition to be chaired by the Office of Congressman Rufus, but the scope to be chaired by the City of Cagayan de Oro.

Okay. We don't adjourn, right?

We suspend this TWG.

Thank you very much everybody.

[THE MEETING WAS SUSPENDED AT 11:18 A.M.]

/mms/mjp/agc



Republic of the Philippines
SENATE

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS

joint with the Committees on Tourism, Sports, and Finance

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) MEETING

25 June 2024 (Tuesday),




9:30 A.M. -12NN - Cagayan De Oro River Cultural Heritage Zone Act

1:30 P.M – 4:00 P.M – Philippine Indigenous Games Preservation Act

Sen. Sotto Room, Senate of the Philippines

GUESTLIST

CAGAYAN DE ORO RIVER CULTURAL HERITAGE ZONE ACT		
1.	<p>CHAIRMAN VICTORINO MAPA MANALO <i>National Commission for the Culture and the Arts (NCCA)</i> <i>Director, National Archives of the Philippines (NAP)</i></p>	<p><i>Represented by:</i></p> <p>COMMISSIONER REDEN S. ULO <i>Subcommission on Cultural Communities and Traditional Arts</i></p> <p>MR. RENZO P. POLANGCO <i>Culture and Arts Officer</i></p> <p>MS. MIKHAELA CASTRO <i>Cultural Properties Regulation Division</i></p> <p>MR. JULES ROLDAN</p>
2.	<p>CHAIRMAN LISA GUERRERO – NAKPIL <i>National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP)</i></p>	<p><i>Represented by:</i></p> <p>MS. CHRISTINE G. DULNUAN <i>OIC, Research, Publication, and Heraldry Division</i></p> <p>MS. GENISSA O. VILLEGAS <i>Architect II</i></p> <p>MS. JUVELYN D. NIERVES</p>

		<i>History Researcher II</i>
3.	REP. RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ <i>Cagayan De Oro City, 2nd District</i>	
4.	HON. ROLANDO KLAREX UY <i>City Mayor</i> <i>Government of Cagayan De Oro</i>	<p>Represented by: </p> <p>MR. JESUS CHRISTOPHER F. SALON <i>OIC- City Museum of Cagayan De Oro and Heritage Studies Center</i></p> <p>ENGR. ARMEN A. CUENCA <i>Department Head</i> <i>City Local Environment and Natural Resources Office</i></p> <p>MR. SIMEON JOSAFAT J. LICAYAN <i>City Planning and Development Office</i></p>
5.	HON. MA. ESPERANZA CHRISTINA GARCIA FRASCO <i>Secretary, Department of Tourism (DOT)</i> <i>Chairperson, Intramuros Administration</i>	<p>Represented by:</p> <p>MR. DECIUS L. ESMEDALLA <i>Assistant Regional Director</i> <i>DOT, Region 10</i></p> <p>ATTY. GLAIZA G. SARMIENTO <i>Legislative Liaison Unit</i></p>
6.	SEC. MARIA ANTONIA YULO LOYZAGA <i>Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)</i>	<p>Represented by: </p> <p>ATTY. BAN MIKHAEL C. PACURIBOT <i>Chief Legal, DENR Region 10</i></p> <p>MR. LUIS PAOLO MASANGKAY <i>Technical Assistant</i></p>
7.	HON. MARK T. LAPID <i>Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA)</i>	<p>Represented by:</p> <p>ATTY. LANNIE B. CIPRES-</p>

		<p>SALAZAR <i>Legal Officer</i></p> <p>MR. FRANCIS ADAME <i>Div. Manager</i></p> <p>MR. FRANCIS RANDY J. HORTELANO <i>Manager TEZ Assistance and Monitoring Department</i></p>
8.	<p>DIR. JEREMY BARNS <i>National Museum of The Philippines</i></p>	<p><u>Attending</u></p>
9.	<p>USEC. PETER N. TIANGCO, Ph.D <i>Administrator</i> <i>National Mapping Resource and Information Authority (NAMRIA)</i></p>	<p><i>Represented by:</i></p> <p>ENGR. MARICEL P. DE LUNA <i>Engineer IV</i></p> <p>ENGR. ERWIN M. GOFREDO <i>Engineer III</i></p> <p>MR. RENATO P. ESPERANZA <i>Supervising Remote Sensing Technologist</i></p>
10.	<p>ATTY. F.D. NICOLAS B. PICHAY <i>Director III</i> <i>Legislative Library Service</i> <i>Senate of the Philippines</i></p>	<p><u>Attending</u></p>
PHILIPPINE INDIGENOUS GAMES PRESERVATION ACT		
1.	<p>CHAIRMAN VICTORINO MAPA MANALO <i>National Commission for the Culture and the Arts (NCCA)</i> <i>Director, National Archives of the Philippines (NAP)</i></p>	<p><i>Represented by:</i></p> <p>COMMISSIONER REDEN S. ULO <i>Subcommission on Cultural Communities and Traditional Arts</i></p> <p>MR. RENZO P. POLANGCO <i>Culture and Arts Officer</i></p>

		MR. FRANCES QUITO
2.	CHAIRMAN LISA GUERRERO – NAKPIL <i>National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP)</i>	<i>Represented by:</i> MS. CHRISTINE G. DULNUAN <i>OIC, Research, Publication, and Heraldry Division</i> MS. GENISSA O. VILLEGAS <i>Architect II</i> MS. JUVELYN D. NIERVES <i>History Researcher II</i>
3.	<i>Department of Education (DEPED)</i>	<i>Represented by:</i> MS. MA. LOURIE VICTOR <i>Head IPsEO</i> MR. NIÑO AL-SIMON C. DELFIN <i>Technical Assistant II, LLO</i> MA. PREXIE MEREGILDO <i>Technical Assistant II, LLO</i>
4.	REP. MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS <i>Pangasinan, 6th District</i>	<i>Represented by:</i> ATTY. ROLANDO B. ARELLANO <i>Spokesperson</i>
5.	DIRECTOR-GENERAL JOSE A. TORRES JR. <i>Philippine Information Agency (PIA)</i>	<i>Represented by:</i> MR. DEMETRIO C. RAGUA JR. <i>technical staff</i>
6.	CHAIRMAN RICHARD E. BACHMANN <i>Philippine Sports Commission (PSC)</i>	<i>Represented by:</i> COMMISSIONER MATTHEW P. GASTON DR. LAURO O. DOMINGO, JR.

		<p><i>Chief, Program Research and Development Division</i></p> <p>MR. ELIAS S. SAMORIN <i>Sports and Games Regulation Officer</i></p>
7.	<p>SECRETARY BENJAMIN C. ABALOS JR. <i>Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)</i></p>	
8.	<p>HON. DAKILA CARLO CUA <i>National President Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)</i></p>	<p><i>Represented by:</i></p> <p>MR. BLAKE BARRIOS <i>Director for Program & Policy</i></p>
9.	<p>HON. JOSEPH BERNOS <i>National President League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP)</i></p>	
10.	<p>HON. EDEN C. PINEDA <i>President Liga ng Barangay (LNB)</i></p>	
11.	<p>HON. MICHAEL RAMA <i>National President League of Cities Philippines (LCP)</i></p>	<p><i>Represented by:</i></p> <p>MS. AMELIA DE GUIA <i>Senior Policy Officer</i></p>
12.	<p>ATTY. GUILING "GENE" A. MAMONDIONG <i>Chairman National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF)</i></p>	<p><i>Represented by:</i></p> <p>MR. DATU RAS S. LIDASAN, JR ATTY. AMBAYANAN MANDING</p>
13.	<p>CHAIRPERSON JENNIFER "LIMPAYEN" SIBUG-LAS <i>National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)</i></p>	<p><i>Represented by:</i></p> <p>ATTY. ADRIENNE REGINE S. DUNUAN <i>Attorney III</i></p>

14.	HON. ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO President <i>Philippine Olympic Committee (POC)</i>	<i>regrets (with email dated June 23)</i>
15.	HON. J. PROSPERO E. DE VERA III, DPA <i>Chairperson</i> <i>Commission on Higher Education (CHED)</i>	<i>Represented by:</i> ATTY. HAZEL MENDOZA <i>Attorney III</i> MS. ANA DULCE B. YANGO <i>PTS III - TSGLP</i>
16.	ATTY. F.D. NICOLAS B. PICHAY <i>Director III</i> <i>Legislative Library Service</i> <i>Senate of the Philippines</i>	<i>Attending</i>