

Republic of the Philippines
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY
Cotabato City

SECOND PARLIAMENT
Second Regular Session

Parliament Bill No. 181

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Parliament
BILLS AND INDEX DIVISION
RECEIVED

Name: MAN AMILBAHAR S. Signature: [Signature]
Date: MAY 25 2023 Time: 11:01 am

Introduced by
**MPs AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL, ATTY. RASOL Y. MITMUG, JR.,
ATTY. SITTIE FAHANIE S. UY-OYOD, HASHEMI N. DILANGALEN, M.D.,
HAMID U. MALIK**
Co-authored by
**MPs ATTY. LAISA M. ALAMIA, ENGR. BAIN TAN A. AMPATUAN,
ENGR. DON MUSTAPHA A. LOONG, ATTY. SUHARTO M. AMBOLOD TO,
RASUL E. ISMAEL**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A DATABASE OF CULTURAL PROPERTIES
LOST DURING THE MARAWI SIEGE, PROHIBITING THE SALE
THEREOF, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

War can leave behind a trail of destruction and chaos, leaving many communities struggling to pick up the pieces and rebuild. The Marawi siege, which lasted for five months in 2017, had a significant impact on the country, particularly on the city of Marawi and its residents. The immediate effects of the siege were the displacement of thousands of residents, the destruction of their homes, the disruption of trade and commerce, and the loss of income and livelihoods. Included in the losses are some cultural properties which are likewise of significant value.

Amidst this chaos, it is important to remember the significance of preserving artifacts and other cultural properties that serve as a tangible link to the past. These cultural properties help us understand our history, culture, and heritage, and they hold valuable lessons that can inform our future.

This bill recognizes the importance of safeguarding the historical and cultural properties found in Marawi City from looting and destruction, which pose a significant threat to the city's cultural and historical identity. This bill aims to protect and preserve these artifacts for the benefit of future generations.

Due to the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL
Member of the Parliament

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Name: AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL Signature: [Signature]
Date: MAY 25 2023 Time: 11:02 AM

Parliament Bill No. 181

Introduced by
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BE IT ENACTED by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority in Parliament assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*Marawi City Cultural Properties Protection Act of 2023.*”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the Bangsamoro Government to protect and preserve the cultural heritage of Marawi City and its people. The Bangsamoro Government recognizes the importance of safeguarding the historical and cultural properties found in Marawi City from looting and destruction, which pose a significant threat to the city's cultural and historical identity. It is the duty of the State to protect and preserve these artifacts for the benefit of future generations.

SEC. 3. Definitions. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

a. *Cultural properties* - are documents, and objects which may be classified as antiques, relics, or artifacts, and specimens of natural history that are of cultural, historical, anthropological or scientific value and significance to Marawi; such as physical, and anthropological, archaeological and ethnographical materials, meteorites and tektites; historical objects and manuscripts; house and agricultural implements; decorative articles or personal adornment; works of art such as paintings, sculptures, carvings, jewelry, sketches

drawings or illustrations in part or in whole; works of industrial and commercial art such as furniture, pottery, ceramics, wrought iron, gold, bronze, silver, wood or other heraldic items, metals, coins, medals, badges, insignias, coat of arms, crests, flags, arms, and armor; vehicles or ships or boats in part or in whole.¹

b. *Artifacts* – are articles that are products of human skills or workmanship, especially in the simple product of primitive arts or industry representing past eras or periods.²

c. *Antiques* – are cultural properties found locally which are one hundred years or more in age or even less, but their production having ceased, they have, therefore, become or are becoming rare.³

d. *Relics* – are cultural properties which, either as a whole or in fragments, are left behind after the destruction or decay of the rest of its parts and which are intimately associated with important beliefs, practices, customs and traditions, periods and personages.⁴

SEC. 4. Creation of a Database of Artifacts. - There shall be established a database of all cultural properties lost and/or found in Marawi City after the 2015 siege. The database shall include a complete inventory of all artifacts, antiques, relics, photographs, and descriptions of each item. The database shall be updated regularly and maintained by the Bangsamoro Commission for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage (BCPCH).

The database shall be established through an online portal, in a secure but user-friendly format that can be easily accessed by the public.

SEC. 5. Prohibition of Sale of Looted Cultural Properties. - It shall be unlawful for any person to sell or offer for sale any cultural property, including but not limited to artifacts, antiques and relics, that was illegally looted from Marawi City during and after the siege. Any person found guilty of violating this provision shall be penalized in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Revised Penal Code or any national law.

SEC. 6. Penalty for Unauthorized Removal of Artifacts. - Any person who shall remove, excavate, or destroy any cultural property found in Marawi City without the required permit or authority from the appropriate cultural agency or City Government of Marawi shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of not less than twenty-one (21) days but not more than thirty (30) days.

SEC. 7. Establishment of Monitoring and Enforcement Mechanisms. - The BCPCH, in coordination with the City Government of Marawi, shall establish a monitoring and enforcement mechanism to ensure the effective implementation of this Act. The mechanism shall include a system of inspections, penalties, and sanctions for violators.

SEC. 8. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the BCPHCH's current budget and shall thereafter be included in the annual Appropriations Act.

¹ Section 3 (a), RA No. 4846 "Cultural Properties Preservation and Protection Act"

² Section 3 (b), *ibid.*

³ Section 3 (d), *ibid.*

⁴ Section 3 (e), *ibid.*

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. – In case any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause. - All regional laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the region.

Approved,

Author/s:


AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL
Member of the Parliament

Certified correct:

PROF. RABY B. ANGKAL
Secretary-General

Attested by:

ATTY. PANGALIAN M. BALINDONG
Speaker