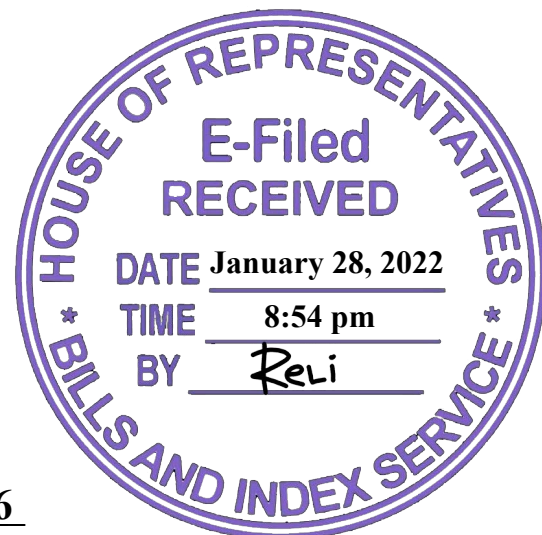


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2476



Introduced by Representative Shirlyn L. Bañas-Nogralles

RESOLUTION URGING ALL AGENCIES, BUREAUS, DEPARTMENTS, AND OFFICES OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, AND ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND BARANGAYS NATIONWIDE TO USE THE CORRECT NAME “BLAAN” IN ALL SUBJECT-MATTERS CONCERNING THE BLAAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF SOUTH CENTRAL MINDANAO

WHEREAS, government agencies and offices in both the national or local level have for years continued to use erroneous terms (*B’laan*, *Bilaan*, *Bilanes*, *Biraan*, etc.) in official documents, research works, online news or feature content, and other publications when describing the *Blaan* indigenous peoples group of South Central Mindanao¹;

WHEREAS, the decades of misspelling of *Blaan* in publications has led to mispronunciations of the name in conversations and formal dialogues which, in turn, only exacerbated widespread discrimination against many *Blaan* community members by racially-prejudiced people who deliberately mispronounce the name as an ethnic slur;

WHEREAS, the unfortunate apex of this error can be seen in the 2016 declaration of master weaver Yabing Masalon Dulo of Mount Matutum, Municipality of Polomolok, South Cotabato as “*Manlilikha ng Bayan*” which described her as a “*B’laan ikat* weaver”, frustrating many *Blaans* in South Central Mindanao;²

WHEREAS, numerous *Blaan* civic organizations and advocates, who all consider the *Blaan* name as the primary cultural identifier for the community, have continued to strongly point out the misspelling of their distinct name and appeal to all offices in all levels of government to amend national records to rectify this historical mistake;

WHEREAS, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), to address the issues of the *Blaan* nomenclature and aggrupation, has resolved that the institution will use the term *Blaan* to describe the *Blaan* Indigenous Peoples in Davao del Sur, North Cotabato, South Cotabato (including General Santos City), and Sarangani³;

¹ “Blaan Spelling Advocacy” presentation of KafyeBlaan Empowerment, Inc.

² Proclamation No. 126, Series of 2017 of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

³ Memorandum Order No. 351, Series of 2021 of National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

WHEREAS, the correct use of the *Blaan* name nationwide will help cement further equal protection of all Filipinos and prohibition of discrimination against the members of the *Blaan* community, as provided under the Constitution⁴;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES to urge all agencies, bureau, departments, and offices of the national government, including government-owned and controlled corporations, and all local governments and barangays nationwide to use the correct name “*Blaan*” in all subject-matters concerning the *Blaan* indigenous peoples of South Central Mindanao.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that a copy of this Resolution be furnished to the National Library of the Philippines, *Komisyon ng Wikang Filipino*, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the National Museum of the Philippines, the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, the Department of Education, the Department of Tourism, the Philippine News Agency, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Adopted,


SHIRLYN L. BAÑAS-NOGRALES

⁴ Section 11, Article II, Philippine Constitution.