



Republic of the Philippines  
Province of Isabela  
Municipality of San Isidro  
**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**  
Series of 2023

**AN ORDINANCE DECLARING MORO-MORO (COMEDIA) PRACTICED AND PERFORMED IN BARANGAY CAMARAG AS A MUNICIPAL INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN SAN ISIDRO, ISABELA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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*Authored by: **SB MEMBER GUILL MARC D. MARIANO***

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## **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Intangible cultural heritage is important as it gives us a sense of identity and belonging, linking our past, through the present, with our future. It also has both social and economic importance, as it aids social cohesion and helps individuals to feel part of a community and of society at large. This fundamental truth is enshrined and protected by the 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article XIV, Sections 14, 15, 16 and 18. These salient provisions mandate the State to foster the preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of Filipino national culture.

Furthermore, the protection, preservation, and promotion of intangible cultural heritage has also been globally recognized through the adoption of the UN Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage of 2003, which also recognizes the importance of intangible culture in the promotion of peace and cultural diversity. In the processes of globalization and social transformation, protection of intangible culture should be of the forefront.

This ordinance is a tribute to the Moro-Moro (Comedia) long practiced and performed in Barangay Camarag. It is a form of theater premised on battles between Christians and Moors performed during fiestas from the Spanish colonial period. However, with the social transformation, the country has seen the decline of the practice and performance of Moro-Moro (Comedia), as a result of the declining interests of the younger generation to continue its practice. In the case of Barangay Camarag, the long tradition of Moro-Moro dates back even before the municipality was even created in 1967. With its rich history and relevance to the community, the need to protect, preserve, and promote this intangible cultural heritage is important.

It is therefore recommended that the foregoing ordinance be approved.

**HON. GUILL MARC D. MARIANO**  
AUTHOR  
SB MEMBER



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**WHEREAS**, Article XIV, Section 14 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that “The State shall foster the preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of a Filipino national culture based on the principle of unity in diversity in a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression”,

**WHEREAS**, Article XIV, Section 16 states that all country’s artistic and historic wealth constitutes the cultural treasure of the nation and shall be under the protection of the State which may regulate its disposition;

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of 2003 recognizes the importance of intangible cultural heritage in promoting peace and cultural diversity, that need to be protected, preserved and promoted in the process of globalization and social transformation;

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has described heritage as, “or legacy from the past, what we live today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritages are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration”,

**WHEREAS**, the importance of the intangible cultural heritage as a mainspring of cultural diversity and a guarantee of sustainable development, as underscored in the UNESCO Recommendation on the Safeguarding of Traditional Culture and Folklore of 1989, in the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of 2001, and in the Istanbul Declaration of 2002;

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals include several explicit references to cultural aspects in the heart of the realization of UNSDGs (Target 4.7, Target 8.3, Target 8.9, Target 12.b, and Target 11.4);

**WHEREAS**, Section 16 of RA 7160 also known as the Local Government Code of 1991 mandates local government units to ensure and support the preservation and enrichment of culture within their territorial jurisdiction;

**WHEREAS**, the Republic Act No. 10066, An Act Providing for the Protection and Conservation of the National Cultural Heritage, Strengthening the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and its Affiliated Cultural Agencies, And for Other Purposes, Section 33, calls the incorporation of cultural property programs in Local Government Unit’s budgets for the conservation and preservation of cultural property in their environmental, educational and cultural activities;

Be it **ENACTED** by the Sangguniang Bayan during its regular session \_\_\_\_\_

Section 1. **Title.** This shall be known as a “Camarag Moro-Moro (Comedia) Ordinance”.

Section 2. **Definition of Terms**

2.1 **Moro-Moro** – also known as comedia, is the earliest known form of organized theatre in the Philippines. It was earlier created by the Spanish priests. The theme centers on the animosity between Christians and Muslims in the beginning, and unity and brotherhood in the end. The presence of the vital elements in a drama like love, hate, war, religion and parental disputes make

the Moro-Moro spectacular not only because of the colorful costumes but also of the real and suggestive moments of the performers on stage;

- 2.2 **Culture** – A way of life of a group of people, the behavior, beliefs, values, and symbols that they accept, generally without thinking about them, and that are passed along by communication and imitation from one generation to the next;
- 2.3 **Tradition** – an inherited, established, or customary pattern of thought, action, or behavior (as a religious practice or a social custom);
- 2.4 **Cultural Property** – shall refer to all products of human creativity by which a people and nation reveal their identity, including churches, mosques and other places of religious worship, schools and natural history specimens, sites, whether public or privately-owned, movable or immovable, and tangible or intangible;
- 2.5 **Cultural Preservation** – refers to the arts and other manifestation of human intellectual achievement regarded collectively. It also refers to the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or other social groups;
- 2.6 **Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)** – shall refer to the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge and skills, as well as the instruments, objects and artifacts associated therewith, that communities, groups, and individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage, such as: (1) oral traditions, language and expressions; (2) performing arts; (3) social practices, rituals and festive events; (4) knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and (5) traditional craftsmanship;
- 2.7 **Intangible Cultural Property** – shall refer to the peoples’ learned processes along with the knowledge, skills, and creativity that inform and are developed by them, the products they create and the resources, spaces and other aspects of social and natural context necessary for their sustainability

### Section 3. **Declaration of Policy.**

- 3.1 It is the declared policy of the Municipality of San Isidro, Isabela to protect and preserve the municipality’s cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible. This is to ensure that these heritages shall be passed down to all generations to come.

### Section 4. **Declaration of Camarag’s Moro-Moro (Comedia) as an Intangible Cultural Heritage**

- 4.1 It is hereby declared that the practice of Moro-Moro or Comedia in Barangay Camarag is an intangible cultural heritage of the municipality of San Isidro, and as such, the municipal government shall ensure for the safeguarding thereof.
- 4.2 Specifically, the municipal government shall ensure the viability of the ICH, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, protection, promotion, enhancement, transmission, particularly through formal and non-formal education, as well as the revitalization of the various aspects of this ICH to pass it on from generation to generation.

### Section 5. **Safeguarding Camarag’s Moro-Moro (Comedia) as an Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)**

- 5.1 It is hereby ordained that in order to ensure the safeguarding, development and promotion of Camarag’s Moro-Moro as an intangible cultural heritage of the municipality of San Isidro, the municipal government shall endeavor to:
  - 5.1.1 adopt a general policy as articulated hereof, aimed at promoting the function of the intangible cultural heritage in society, and at integrating the safeguarding of such heritage into planning programs of the municipal government;

- 5.1.2 designate or establish a competent multi-sectoral and inter-agency body, as ordained hereof, for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage;
- 5.1.3 foster, as far as practicable, scientific, technical and artistic studies, as well as research methodologies, with a view to effective safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage;
- 5.1.4 adopt appropriate legal framework, technical, administrative and financial measures aimed at:
  - a. fostering the creation or strengthening of institutions for training in the management of the intangible cultural heritage and the transmission of such heritage through forums and spaces intended for the performance or expression hereof;
  - b. ensuring access to the intangible cultural heritage while respecting customary practices governing access to specific aspects of such heritage;
  - c. establishing documentation for the intangible cultural heritage and facilitating access to them.
- 5.1.5 Ensure recognition of, respect for, and enhancement of the intangible cultural heritage in the entire municipality, in particular through:
  - a. educational, awareness-raising and information programs, aimed at the general public, in particular young people;
  - b. specific educational and training programs within the communities and groups concerned;
  - c. capacity-building activities for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, in particular management and scientific research; and
  - d. non-formal means of transmitting knowledge.
- 5.1.6 Keep the public informed of the dangers threatening such heritage, and of the activities carried out in pursuance of the spirit and intent of this Ordinance;
- 5.1.7 promote education for the protection of natural spaces and places of memory whose existence is necessary for expressing the intangible cultural heritage.

## Section 6. **Implementing Guidelines and Mechanisms**

The following guidelines and mechanism shall govern the effective and efficient implementation of the letters and intent of this Ordinance for the safeguarding of Camarag's practice of Moro-Moro (Comedia) as an intangible cultural heritage of the municipality of San Isidro:

- 6.1 At any time and in whatever circumstance, the Camarag's practice of Moro-Moro (Comedia) in the municipality shall be respected, preserved, promoted, safeguarded and showcased based on its original purposes and/or for local tourism purposes;
- 6.2 While preserving and protecting the objectives of the practice of Moro-Moro (Comedia) as an intangible cultural heritage, the municipal government shall also encourage efforts that would evolve it in accordance with the changing rhythm, fashion and influences of society;
- 6.3 For purposes of safeguarding, preserving and promoting the practice and performance of Moro-Moro (Comedia) as an intangible cultural heritage

of the municipality of San Isidro, it is hereby ordained that the Barangay Camarag and its Barangay Officials, is hereby designated, declared and authorized to be the municipality's forefront in ensuring the annual practice of the intangible cultural heritage;

- 6.4 The municipal government, through the Municipal Cultural Office, Committee on Education, Culture and Arts, and the Local School Board, in coordination with the local offices of the Department of Education, Isabela State University's College of Education, civil society organizations, religious sectors, Department of Tourism, and the National Commission for Culture and Arts (NCCA) per Section 34 of RA 10006 (Providing for the Protection and Conservation of the National Cultural Heritage, Strengthening the National Commission for Culture and Arts (NCCA) and Its Affiliated Cultural Agencies, and for Other Purposes), shall endeavor to fund and undertake relevant researches for the historical documentation, preservation, protection, enhancement and transmission of Camarag's Moro-Moro as an intangible cultural heritage of the municipality of San Isidro.
- 6.5 The Municipal Cultural Office shall ensure the proper documentation and recording through various media of the intangible cultural heritage as well as the identification, inventory, profiling, updating, and maintenance of a database of all performing groups of Moro-Moro (Comedia) and their members in the Municipality of San Isidro.
- 6.6 The Barangay Camarag, Barangay Officials, and organizing committee of the Moro-Moro (Comedia), shall take necessary steps to educate other barangays of its practice and performance of Moro-Moro by encouraging the participation of other barangays as part of the performing group or organizing committee.
- 6.7 The Local School Board shall install mechanisms for inclusion of the teaching and popularization of Moro-Moro (Comedia) in the school curricula of the basic education program, particularly in MAPEH (Music, Arts, Physical Education and Health) and Araling Panlipunan subject areas with the ultimate aim of organizing Moro-Moro (Comedia) performing groups in each school.
- 6.8 Each performing group of Moro-Moro (Comedia) is hereby designated as the holding organization of the intangible cultural heritage declared herein. A holding organization is one which can comprehend, preserve, evolve or transmit the arts or functions of Moro-Moro (Comedia) as an intangible cultural heritage. The Municipal Cultural Office and the officials of Barangay Camarag shall provide for inheritance training for the members of holding organizations or the performing groups/practitioners in Camarag, to ensure that the intangible cultural heritage is systematically handed over to new generation of performing groups among the youth.
- 6.9 The Sangguniang Barangay of Barangay Camarag, in coordination with the Municipal Cultural Office, shall undertake the organizing and or enhancement of Camarag Moro-Moro (Comedia) groups to perpetuate the ritual and make them active players of the unique intangible cultural heritage. Relative hereof, the Sangguniang Barangay of Camarag are hereby authorized to allocate appropriate funds in their annual investment programs for utilization in the promotion, preservation and safeguarding of the practice of Moro-Moro (Comedia).
- 6.10 There shall be an annual performance of Moro-Moro (Comedia) in Barangay Camarag to showcase the unique intangible cultural heritage which shall involve Barangay-Based or school based Moro-Moro

performing groups which shall be spearheaded by the Municipal Cultural Office.

Section 7. **Organizational Mechanism**

- 7.1 The Municipal Cultural Office shall assume full responsibility for the implementation of the intent and objectives of this Ordinance, including the planning, implementation and evaluation of all programs, projects and activities related hereof, as well as the management and proper disbursement of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund instituted in the succeeding section hereof.
- 7.2 The Barangay Camarag shall designate a key person on a concurrent capacity, who shall be responsible in providing coordinative, secretarial, clerical, custodial and other logistical services in furtherance of the intent and full implementation of this Ordinance. They shall assist the Municipal Cultural Officer in the crafting of annual programs, projects and activities mandated hereof, annual estimate expenses, and in designing a master plan for the promotion, preservation, transmission and safeguarding of Moro-Moro as envisioned hereof.

Section 8. **Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund**

It is hereby ordained that the annual appropriation to finance the programs, projects and activities conceptualized in relation to the provisions of this enactment shall be integrated in the Local Development Investment Program and Annual Investment Program of the municipal government under a fund item to be known as "Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund".

Section 9. **Grant of Authority to the Local Chief Executive to Enter into Agreement**

In furtherance of the purpose and intent hereof, the Local Chief Executive is hereby granted authority to enter into agreement with national government agencies, the private sector, nongovernment organizations or other entities in relation to financing of programs and projects to be implemented by the local government unit on training and other programs related to the promotion, preservation or safeguarding of Moro-Moro, subject to ratification by the Sangguniang Bayan.

Section 10. **Mandatory Sunset Review**

- 10.1 Within five (5) years after the effectivity of this Ordinance, or as the need arises, a Joint Executive-Legislative-CSO Oversight Committee shall conduct a sunset review. For the purposes of this Ordinance, the term "sunset review" shall mean a systematic evaluation by the Joint Oversight Committee of the accomplishments and impact of this Ordinance, as well as the performance and effectiveness of the institutional, organizational and enabling mechanisms created hereof, for the purposes of determining remedial legislations.
- 10.2 In furtherance hereof, the Joint Oversight Committee shall be composed of none (9) members; three (3) members shall come from the executive departments of the local government to be selected by the local chief executive; The Chairperson and two (2) members from the committee on education, culture and arts; Punong Barangay of Barangay Camarag; and two (2) members from the accredited CSOs or academic institutions that are involved in the implementation of any or the programs hereof to be selected by the Municipal Cultural Office, provided that one (1) CSO representative shall represent the performing groups of Moro-Moro (Comedia).

Section 11. **Repealing Clause** – Any ordinance, order, memorandum, rule and regulation which is inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance is hereby modified or repealed accordingly.

Section 12. **Separability Clause** – This Ordinance and its provisions are hereby deemed separable. If for any reason part/s or provision/s hereof is/are declared unconstitutional, ultra vires or inconsistent with law by a component authority, or other part/s or provision/s not affected thereby shall remain valid, in force and effect unless otherwise repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Section 11. **Effectivity** – This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval by the honorable Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Isabela and after complete publication hereof.

ENACTED: \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

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*I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing ordinance which was duly enacted by the Sangguniang Bayan during its regular session on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.*

**ATTY. KAREN MAE R. SERVAN**  
Secretary to the Sanggunian

Attested and Certified to be  
Duly Enacted:

**LEONARDO A. TUMAMAO**  
Municipal Vice-Mayor/Presiding Officer

Approved by:

**VILMER B. BRAVO**  
Municipal Mayor