

Republic of the Philippines  
Congress of the Philippines  
**Senate**  
Pasay City

Sixteenth Congress

Third Regular Session



RESOLUTION No. 101

RESOLUTION COMMENDING LIGAYA FERNANDO-AMILBANGSA AS A CULTURAL ADVOCATE OF PANGALAY, A TRADITIONAL DANCE OF THE SULU ARCHIPELAGO, FOR HER RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION, CHOREOGRAPHY, AND PRESERVATION OF THIS UNIQUE CULTURAL TREASURE

WHEREAS, Section 15 of the Philippine Constitution states that "the State shall conserve, develop, promote and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations";

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10666, the National Cultural Heritage Act, further notes that the State "shall likewise endeavor to create a balanced atmosphere where the historic past coexists in harmony with modern society, and it shall

approach the problem of conservation in an integrated and holistic manner, cutting across all relevant disciplines and technologies”;

WHEREAS, Ligaya Fernando-Amilbangsa has devoted her life to studying, practicing, performing and conserving the *pangalay*, a traditional dance form of the Sulu Archipelago;

WHEREAS, the *pangalay*, which means “gift offering” or “temple of dance” in Sanskrit, is a “pre-Islamic dance tradition among the Samal, Badjau, Jama Mapun and Tausug. It features complex body postures and gestures, renowned for its graceful arm and hand movement, emphasized by the use of *janggalay* (metal claws), to the beat of percussion instruments (*kulintangan*, *gabbang*, *agong*, etc.,) performed during weddings and other celebratory occasions;

WHEREAS, she conceptualized the *Amilbangsa Instruction Method* (AIM) which “gives equal emphasis on technique and creativity”, a method based on Fernando-Amilbangsa’s decades of experience, study, documentation and performance which has become a method of instruction, modification, elaboration of the Pre-Islamic traditional dance;

WHEREAS, she wrote a book titled *Pangalay: Traditional Dances and Related Folk Artistic Expressions*, published in 1983 by the Filipinas Foundation, which was a recipient of the National Award for Best Art Book by the Manila Critics Circle;

WHEREAS, her dedication to dance has earned her several accolades: the Green and Gold Artist Award for dance given by her *alma mater*, Far Eastern University in 1994; the *Tanglaw ng Lahi Award* from the Ateneo de Manila University in 2005; the First Most Outstanding Artist of Tawi-Tawi awarded to her in September 2011; and just recently the Ramon Magsaysay Award which she received together with Kommaly Chantavong from Laos, Kyaw Thu from Myanmar, Anshu Gupta of India and Sanjiv Chaturvedi (for Emergent Leadership);

WHEREAS, for her love of the performing arts and Filipino culture, it is but timely and fitting for the Senate to commend Ligaya Fernando-Amilbangsa: Now, therefore, be it


*Resolved, as it is hereby resolved,* That the Philippine Senate commend and congratulate Ligaya Fernando-Amilbangsa as a cultural advocate of *pangalay*, a traditional dance from the Sulu Archipelago, for her role in research, documentation, choreography and preservation of this unique cultural treasure.

Adopted,



FRANKLIN M. DRILON  
*President of the Senate*

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on September 8, 2015.



OSCAR G. YABES  
*Secretary of the Senate*

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