

16th CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



14 MAR -6 P3:00

SENATE

S. BILL NO. **2165**

RECEIVED BY. *ji*

Introduced by Senator Sonny M. Angara

AN ACT DESIGNATING PHILIPPINE NATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS COMPANIES, DEFINING THEIR ROLES AND FUNCTIONS AS SUCH, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE

Explanatory Note

The 1987 Constitution expressly provides that “[t]he 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” and “conserve, promote, and popularize the nation’s historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations.”

In pursuit of this, the National Center for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) were created to preserve, develop and promote Philippine arts and culture by providing not only a venue to showcase the talents and culture of the Philippines but also through programs and projects to support the artistic and cultural growth of Filipino artists. One such program is the National Endowment Fund for Culture and the Arts (NEFCA) administered by the NCCA.

Despite the laudable objectives of the NEFCA, given the breadth of the possible projects and programs that may receive assistance through it, the amount that is left for the development and promotion of the performing arts is grossly insufficient to properly attain these objectives.

The importance of the performing arts cannot be understated. They preserve and showcase our culture, our heritage and our identity as a people and, in the process, educate not only Filipinos but also other nations since performing arts companies serve as our cultural ambassadors during their performances abroad.

To recognize the contribution of Philippine performing arts companies and to allow them to better fulfill their role in the development and promotion of our culture, this bill designates several groups as Philippine National Performing Arts Companies and provides them with financial assistance.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


SONNY M. ANGARA

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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **Section 1. Title** - This Act shall be known as the Philippine National Performing Arts
2 Companies Act of 2013.

3

4 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy** – Pursuant to Article II, Section 17 and 23, and Art XIV,
5 Sections 14, 15 and 18 (2) of the Philippine Constitution, it is hereby declared the policy of the
6 State to appropriately recognize, designate and support non-government organizations that have
7 demonstrated pioneering, long consistent and unassailable competence, effectiveness and success
8 in the development, training, documentation and performance of ballet and contemporary dance,
9 orchestral music, choral music, and theater.

10

11 **Section 3. Designation as the Philippine National Performing Arts Company** - The
12 following groups are hereby declared Philippine National Performing Arts Companies for a
13 period of five (5) years:

14 · One (1) national ballet/contemporary dance company;

15 · One (1) national choral ensemble;

16 · One (1) national orchestra

17 · One (1) national theater group

1 Other groups, aside from those enumerated above, may be designated as a National Performing
2 Arts Company upon the recommendation of the Selection Committee to be constituted pursuant
3 to this Act and the approval by the NCCA Board of Commissions and CCP Board of Trustees.

4
5 **Section 4. Roles and Functions** – Each of the performing arts companies shall undertake the
6 following roles and functions upon designation as a National Performing Arts Company:

7
8 (a) Undertake a continuing program of training and education for the professional
9 development of performing artists, teachers, directors, designers, performing arts
10 managers and other artists particular to its performing arts field;

11
12 (b) Conduct research (on its particular performing arts form) and undertake
13 documentation of its activities and programs for the preservation and of
14 dissemination of Filipino masterpieces in the performing arts;

15
16 (c) Organize and present a regular annual season of performances at the Cultural
17 Center of the Philippines and other venues in the country;

18
19 (d) Develop and build a repertoire of original Filipino works that will help define our
20 national cultural identity;

21
22 (e) Maintain and promote a standard of artistic excellence in its field that will help
23 elevate the performing arts in the Philippines;

24

1 (f) Conduct a national outreach and exchange program of performances, workshops
2 and seminars for the development and promotion of the performing arts in the
3 regions;

4
5 (g) Undertake an international outreach program as Philippine cultural ambassadors
6 and perform during state functions for visiting dignitaries;

7
8 (h) Conduct a continuing audience development program and help promote greater
9 awareness and appreciation of the performing arts among the public;

10
11 (i) Maintain a viable and sustainable performing arts organization and help set a
12 standard for effective and efficient performing arts management

13
14 (j) Submit an annual report of accomplishments to the Cultural Center of the
15 Philippines and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

16
17 **Section 5. Selection Process** – A fifteen (15) member panel of experts in the performing arts
18 will be designated by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the
19 Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) to comprise the Selection Committee for the National
20 Performing Arts Companies. The Committee, which will be composed of experts knowledgeable
21 in the artistic and technical aspects of the performing arts, shall have three (3) representatives
22 each from the Cultural Center of the Philippines, National Commission for Culture and the Arts,
23 the performing arts sector, academe, and critics from the media. They shall elect a Chairperson
24 from among its members. The members of the Selection Committee shall receive appropriate
25 remuneration from the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

26

1 The Selection Committee shall be tasked to draw up the rules and guidelines for the selection
2 process of the Performing Arts Companies.

3

4 The selection process shall constitute the following procedure:

5

6 (a) A call for applications to different performing arts companies shall be undertaken
7 based on rules and guidelines set by the Selection Committee.

8

9 (b) A first screening shall take place wherein applications shall be assessed by the
10 Secretariat based on a pre-selection criteria stated in the rules and guidelines set by
11 the Committee.

12

13 (c) Qualified applications shall move to the second screening wherein the Selection
14 Committee shall further evaluate the applications based on the criteria set.

15

16 (d) The Selection Committee shall select the qualified Performing Arts Companies
17 which shall consist of:

18 · One (1) qualified applicant for ballet and contemporary dance;

19 · One (1) qualified applicant for choral music;

20 · One (1) qualified applicant for orchestral music;

21 · One (1) qualified applicant for theater;

22 · And such other group/s as may be designated in the future

23

24 The Selection Committee shall then choose an additional twelve (12), or three (3) from each of
25 the next most qualified applicants from each of the aforementioned performing arts forms, for a
26 separate subsidy program.

1 The results of the final selection shall be jointly ratified by the NCCA Board of Commissioners
2 and the CCP Board of Trustees.

3

4 The selection of National Performing Arts Companies shall take place every five (5) years.
5 Performing arts companies which have been previously declared National Performing Arts
6 Companies may re-apply for the succeeding selection processes.

7

8 **Section 6. Criteria for Selection** – The criteria set by the Selection Committee shall be based
9 on the following:

10

11 (a) It is national in scope, as it tackles and presents the arts, culture, traditions, issues and
12 concerns of the nation, drawing the best talents from all over the country and
13 contributing to the development of a national cultural consciousness.

14

15 (b) It is the best in its field in the country, maintaining the highest standards of artistic
16 excellence, manifested in the quality of its performances, artists, training programs
17 and other activities.

18

19 (c) It is world class, having represented the country in numerous touring engagements,
20 festivals, competitions and international events and having been acclaimed by foreign
21 organizations, audiences and critics alike

22

23 (d) It has maintained a professional track record of regular and continuing set of
24 activities in pursuit of its mission; and

25

1 (e) It is able to maintain a viable and sustainable organization to support its programs.

2 The company should have the capability to match the allocated annual subsidy from
3 the government.

4
5 **Section 7. Entitlements** – Each of the National Performing Arts Companies shall be entitled to
6 the following;

7
8 **(a) Equal Use of Government Facilities for Free** – The National Performing Arts
9 Companies shall be entitled to equal use of government facilities and cultural venues,
10 specifically but not limited to the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Tanghalang
11 Balagtas and other government venues devoted to cultural and artistic performances
12 without fee;

13
14 **(b) Access to Grants** – They shall be entitled to project grants for research,
15 documentation, productions, workshops, training and audience development programs
16 from the National Commission on Culture and the Arts;

17
18 **Section 8. Evaluation Process** – The National Performing Arts Companies shall be evaluated
19 annually by the Selection Committee and shall be given feedback on the annual assessment.

20
21 **Section 9. Memorandum of Agreement** – Within 30 days upon effectivity of this Act, the
22 Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts
23 (NCCA) shall execute the necessary arrangements in accordance with existing laws,
24 rules and regulations.

25

1 **Section 10. Appropriation of Funds** – The following amounts shall be appropriated for each
2 of the National Performing Arts Companies:

3

4 Twelve Million Pesos (P12,000,000.00) a year for the National Orchestra for a period of five (5)
5 years;

6

7 Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000.00) a year for the National Ballet/Contemporary Dance
8 Company for a period of five (5) years;

9

10 Eight Million Pesos (P8,000,000.00) a year for the National Theater Company for a period of
11 five (5) years;

12

13 Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00) a year for the National Choral Company for a period of five
14 (5) years.

15

16 The abovementioned amounts shall be appropriated for each of the national performing arts
17 companies to support the roles and functions stated in Section 4 of this Act for the first year of
18 its implementation. Thereafter, such amount, and sums necessary to sustain the implementation
19 of this Act, shall be sourced from the General Appropriations Act as a line item budget under
20 the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), subject to adjustment every (5) years as may be
21 necessary.

22

23 A maximum of twelve (12), or maximum of three (3) from each of the next most qualified
24 applicants from each of the performing arts forms mentioned, shall be entitled to a subsidy of
25 One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) a year, renewable upon evaluation, for performance,
26 research, documentation and commissioned work.

1 **Section 11. Donations and Solicitations** – The National Performing Arts Companies may
2 also solicit and receive donations, endowments which shall be exempted from income or gift
3 taxes and all other taxes, charges or fees imposed by the government or any political subdivision
4 or instrumentality thereof.

5

6 Government Corporations are hereby authorized to give grants to the National Performing Arts
7 Companies from their unimpaired surplus at their discretion.

8

9 **Section 12. Separability Clause** – If for any reason, any part of the provision of this Act
10 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall
11 remain in full force and effect.

12

13 **Section 13. Repealing Clause** – All laws, rules and regulations, inconsistent with the provisions
14 of this Act, are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

15

16 **Section 14. Effectivity** – This Act shall take effect upon approval.

17

18 *Approved,*

19