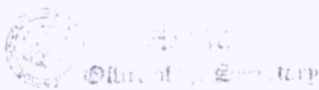


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



SENATE  
S. B. No. 833

'19 JUL 30 P4:17

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

RECEIVED

**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS**  
**THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Culture, which refers to an array of customs, traditions, knowledge, beliefs, and behaviors, is recognized by the State to have a significant role in our society as it does not only define our identity and unifies all Filipinos but also allows us to co-exist with the other cultures in the world. The Constitution mandates the State to give priority to arts and culture in order to promote nationalism and human development as well as to boost social and economic progress.

However, the positive impact of culture to our country and its people is not commensurate with the importance and prioritization given to it for the past decades. Culture is often ignored as an important factor in economic progress and many members of our society have limited concept of culture.

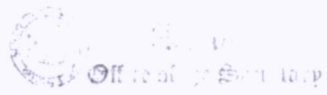
Since the passage of Republic Act No. 7356 in 1992, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) has served as the overall policy-making and coordinating body of all programs and plans related to the conservation, development, and promotion of Philippine arts and culture. This significant function performed by the NCCA was affirmed by Executive Order No. 80, series of 1999 and further strengthened by RA 9155.

Recognizing the role played by the NCCA in implementing the cultural programs of the government despite the limited resources and the importance of the culture and the arts in the enrichment of the Filipino identity, this bill seeks to reorganize the existing NCCA into the Department of Culture, thereby ensuring its place in the priorities of the government.

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



**SONNY ANGARA**



**SENATE**  
**S. B. No. 833**

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Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS**  
**THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **ARTICLE I**  
2 **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

3 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Department of Culture*  
4 *Act of 2019.*"

5 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State:

- 6 a) To recognize that culture is a unifying, humanizing and modernizing  
7 agent/instrument of any society, and the patrimony and right of every citizen  
8 of the Philippines;
- 9 b) To recognize the vital role of culture in nation-building;
- 10 c) To incorporate considerations of culture in the formulation of appropriate and  
11 significant political and economic policy that will better serve Filipinos and  
12 ensure that all Filipinos enjoy full cultural rights, take full advantage of a  
13 dynamic cultural experience, and be inspired, sustained by, draw from,  
14 contribute to and celebrate the country's culture;
- 15 d) To create a national body which will develop, manage and be responsible for  
16 the implementation of policy, legislation and strategic direction for the  
17 protection, regulation, preservation, development, management,  
18 dissemination and promotion of the country's culture, relative to the immense



1 national resources, patrimony and wealth engendered and amassed through  
2 countless generations and centuries of distinctive Filipino ways of life and  
3 experiences in specific natural and social environments that this represents,  
4 and to facilitate the convergence of various agencies with cultural mandates  
5 and rationalize their organizations and functions;

6 e) To foster, strengthen, and accelerate the convergence of various cultural  
7 offices agencies, and rationalize their organizations and functions;

8 f) To recognize that cultural education is the right of every citizen and therefore  
9 ensure that cultural literacy is inculcated in the development and education of  
10 all Filipinos;

11 g) To promote the national language of the country while enhancing the linguistic  
12 diversity of the Philippines; and,

13 h) To secure and improve the welfare of Filipino artists and cultural workers.

14 The Department shall continually review the state and needs of culture and  
15 arts in the context of the country's developmental goals.

16 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall  
17 be defined as follow:

18 a) *Art* shall refer to the expression or application of human creative skill and  
19 imagination;

20 b) *Conservation* shall refer to all process and measures of maintaining the cultural  
21 significance of a cultural property, including but not limited to, preservation,  
22 restoration, reconstruction, protection, adaptive re-use or any combination  
23 thereof;

24 c) *Cultural agencies* shall refer to any of the following national government  
25 agencies with their specific areas of responsibility: National Museum of the  
26 Philippines (cultural property), the National Library of the Philippines (books),  
27 National Historical Commission of the Philippines (Philippine history), the  
28 National Archives of the Philippines (documents) the Cultural Center of the  
29 Philippines (culture and arts) and Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (language);

30 d) *Cultural Education* shall refer to the teaching and learning of cultural concepts  
31 and processes;



- 1 e) *Cultural Heritage* shall refer to the totality of cultural property preserved and  
2 developed through time and passed on to posterity;
- 3 f) *Cultural Property* shall refer to all products of human creativity by which people  
4 and nation reveal their identity, including architecture and sites or human  
5 activity [churches, mosques and other places of religious worship, schools]  
6 and natural history specimens and sites, whether public or privately owned,  
7 movable or immovable, and tangible or intangible;
- 8 g) *Culture* shall refer to the broad spectrum of people's beliefs, practices,  
9 customs and traditions, material culture, arts, and other forms of actual and  
10 symbolic expressions and representations which are handed down from one  
11 generation to the next in the process of interaction;
- 12 h) *History* shall refer to a written record of past events relating to Philippine  
13 history;
- 14 i) *Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples* shall refer to a group of  
15 people or homogenous societies identified by self-ascription and ascription by  
16 others, who have continuously lived as organized community on communally  
17 bounded and defined territory, and who have, under claims of ownership since  
18 time immemorial, occupied, possessed and utilized such territories, sharing  
19 common bonds of language, customs, traditions and other distinctive cultural  
20 traits, or who have, through resistance to political, social and cultural inroads  
21 of colonization, non-indigenous religions and cultures, became historically  
22 differentiated from the majority of Filipinos. ICCs/IPs shall likewise include  
23 peoples who are regarded as indigenous on account of their descent from the  
24 populations which inhabited the country, at the time of conquest or  
25 colonization, or at the time of inroads of non-indigenous religions and cultures,  
26 or the establishment of present state boundaries, who retain some or all of  
27 their own social, economic, cultural and political institutions, but who may  
28 have been displaced from their traditional domains or who may have resettled  
29 outside their ancestral domains; and
- 30 j) *Intangible Cultural Heritage* shall refer to practices, representations,  
31 expressions, knowledge, skills, as well as instrument, objects and artifacts  
32 associated therewith, that communities, groups and individual recognize as

1 part of their cultural heritage, such as: (1) oral traditions, usages, customs,  
2 languages and other expressions; (2) performing arts; (3) social practices,  
3 religious rites, rituals, culinary traditions, and festive events; (4) knowledge  
4 and practices concerning nature and the universe, worship and (5) traditional  
5 craftsmanship.

6 **ARTICLE II**  
7 **THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE**

8 Sec. 4. *Creation of the Department of Culture.* – There is hereby created the  
9 Department of Culture (*Kagawaran ng Kultura*), hereinafter referred to as the  
10 Department, which shall be the primary policy-formulating, planning, coordinating,  
11 implementing, and administrative entity of the executive branch of the National  
12 Government that will implement the pertinent provisions of the Constitution regarding  
13 culture and arts as well as the aforementioned policy of the State.

14 The Department with its attached agencies shall be responsible for the  
15 protection, preservation, regulation, development, management, dissemination and  
16 promotion of the cultural, historical and artistic heritage and resources, tangible and  
17 intangible, of the Philippines and the Filipino people, all of which, with their physical  
18 and social contexts and environments, are understood as together constituting and  
19 pertaining to Philippine culture for purposes of this Act.

20 The Department shall continually review the state and needs of culture and  
21 arts in the context of the country's developmental goals.

22 Sec. 5. *Powers and Functions.* – The Department shall exercise the following  
23 powers and functions:

- 24 a) Formulate and implement national policies, plans, programs, and guidelines  
25 for the protection, preservation, regulation, development, management,  
26 dissemination and promotion of culture, to ensure overall consistency,  
27 effectiveness, efficiency, and conformity with the policies of the State  
28 articulated in the Constitution as well as in this Act and other pertinent laws  
29 and issuances;
- 30 b) Assume and exercise all existing regulatory and quasi-judicial functions  
31 established under Republic Act No. 4846, or "*The Cultural Properties*  
32 *Preservation and Protection Act*;" Presidential Decree No. 374, or "*Amending*



- 1        *the Cultural Properties Preservation and Protection Act;*” Presidential Decree  
2        No. 1616, or “*Creation of the Intramuros Administration;*” Presidential Decree  
3        No. 1748, or “*An Act Amending the Charter of the Intramuros Administration;*”  
4        Republic Act No. 8491, or “*The Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines;*”  
5        Republic Act No. 9105, or “*Art and Forgery Act of 2001;*” Republic Act No.  
6        10066, or “*The National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009;*” and, Republic Act No.  
7        10086 or “*Strengthening Peoples' Nationalism Through Philippine History Act;*”  
8        as well as such functions promulgated through executive issuances that  
9        pertain to the agencies of the National Government covered under this Act,  
10       which are all hereby transferred *in toto* to the Department from the said  
11       agencies;
- 12       c) Be responsible for disaster risk reduction and management relative to culture  
13       and cultural property, both through its own programs and projects as well as  
14       through the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and  
15       Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils, on which it shall  
16       have full membership, representation and participation;
- 17       d) Recommend to the President of the Philippines the designation, through  
18       Presidential Proclamation, with appropriate published guidelines pertaining  
19       thereto, of a cultural property, whether immovable or movable, tangible or  
20       intangible, as a National Cultural Monument, a category hereby established  
21       which incorporates the previously-established legal definitions of, criteria  
22       pertaining to, and all cultural property previously declared by authorized  
23       agencies as National Cultural Treasure, National Historical Landmark, National  
24       Historical Shrine, National Historical Monument, and National Historical Site;
- 25       e) Designate, through Department Order, and with appropriate published  
26       guidelines pertaining thereto, cultural property, whether immovable or  
27       movable, tangible or intangible, as National Cultural Property, a category  
28       hereby established which incorporates the previously-established legal  
29       definitions of, criteria pertaining to, and all cultural property previously  
30       declared by authorized agencies as Important Cultural Property and Heritage  
31       House;
- 32       f) Administer the qualification and selection, with appropriate published



- 1 guidelines pertaining thereto, of the Award for National Living Treasures  
2 (*Gawad ng Manlilikha ng Bayan*), which is hereby renamed as the Order of  
3 National Living Treasures (*Orden ng mga Pambansang Manlilikha ng Bayan*),  
4 and the Order of National Artists (*Orden ng mga Pambansang Alagad ng*  
5 *Sining*), and recommend those nominees to either Order who have been  
6 qualified and selected to the President of the Philippines for proclamation as  
7 such and conferral of the same;
- 8 g) Undertake, through a National Institute of Culture and Arts Management and  
9 the Institutes of Living Traditions to be established for the purpose, in an  
10 appropriate partnership with the academic sector, the education, training and  
11 certification of cultural officers and personnel as a necessary qualification for  
12 employment and promotion in the National Government and in local  
13 governments where such might be required by the Department in coordination  
14 with the Civil Service Commission and the Career Executive Service Board, at  
15 the career sub-professional, career professional, and career executive levels,  
16 to include appropriate courses and programs towards certificates, diplomas,  
17 and undergraduate and graduate degrees;
- 18 h) Administer the qualification, selection and conferral of such other awards as it  
19 may establish in support of its mandate;
- 20 i) Support the development of the cultural, artistic and creative industries of the  
21 country, in all particulars and at all levels;
- 22 j) Administer the endowment funds established separately under Section 20 of  
23 Republic Act No. 7356, *The Law Creating the National Commission for culture*  
24 *and the Arts;*” and Section 50 of Republic Act No. 10066, which are herein  
25 consolidated into a single National Endowment Fund for Culture and Arts  
26 (NEFCA) that shall continue to be sourced and augmented as provided by the  
27 aforementioned provisions, and provide financial support from this fund for  
28 various national programs through a system of grants drawing from the  
29 proceeds, including both principal and interest, of the same, subject to the  
30 approval of the Department of Budget and Management.
- 31 k) Represent the Philippines in matters pertaining to culture in overseas regional  
32 and international organizations and events.

1 l) Other powers and functions as may be created, assigned or transferred by the  
2 President of the Philippines in accordance with law.

3 Sec. 6. *Composition.* – The Department proper shall include the Office of the  
4 Secretary and the staff units directly under it, including the Services established  
5 herein. The Office of the Secretary shall consist of the Secretary, at least three (3)  
6 Undersecretaries, and at least five (5) Assistant Secretaries, together with the  
7 personnel in their immediate offices.

8 Sec. 7. *Secretary of Culture.* – The authority and responsibility for the exercise  
9 of the mandate of the Department and for the discharge of its powers and functions  
10 shall be vested in the Secretary, who shall have supervision and control of the  
11 Department and shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines, subject to  
12 the confirmation by the Commission on Appointments.

13 Sec. 8. *Powers and Functions of the Secretary.* – The Secretary shall have the  
14 following powers and functions:

- 15 a) Provide executive direction and supervision over the entire operations of the  
16 Department and exercise administrative supervision over its attached  
17 agencies;
- 18 b) Establish policies and standards for the effective, efficient and economical  
19 operation of the Department, in accordance with the programs of government;
- 20 c) Promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out department  
21 mandates, objectives, policies, functions, plans, programs and projects;
- 22 d) Promulgate administrative issuances necessary for the efficient administration  
23 of the offices under the Secretary and for proper execution of the laws relative  
24 thereto. These issuances shall not prescribe penalties for their violation,  
25 except when expressly authorized by law;
- 26 e) Rationalize delivery systems necessary for the effective attainment of the  
27 objectives of the Department, in accordance with the programs of  
28 Government;
- 29 f) Appoint all officers and employees of the Department except those whose  
30 appointments are vested in the President or in some other appointing authority  
31 and shall appoint employees to positions in the second level in the regional



1 offices as defined in this Act and in accordance with the Civil Service laws,  
2 rules and regulations;

- 3 g) Exercise disciplinary powers over officers and employees under the Secretary  
4 in accordance with law, including their investigation and the designation of a  
5 committee or officer to conduct such investigation;
- 6 h) Sit on the governing boards of attached agencies as provided in this Act, as  
7 well as any other agencies or organizations as may be appropriate or  
8 designated;
- 9 i) Coordinate with local governments, other agencies and public and private  
10 interests' groups, including non-government organizations (NGOs) and  
11 people's organizations (POs) on Department policies and initiatives;
- 12 j) Advise the President of the Philippines and make recommendations on the  
13 promulgation of executive and administrative orders and regulatory and  
14 legislative proposals on matters pertaining to culture;
- 15 k) Formulate and enforce a system of measuring and evaluating periodically and  
16 objectively the performance of the Department and submit the same annually  
17 to the President;
- 18 l) Prepare and submit to the President through the Department of Budget and  
19 Management an estimate of the necessary expenditures of the department  
20 during the next fiscal year, on the basis of the reports and estimates submitted  
21 by bureaus and officers under the Department;
- 22 m) Exercise jurisdiction over all bureaus, offices, agencies and corporations under  
23 the Department as are provided by law; and,
- 24 n) Performs such other functions as may be provided by law or assigned by the  
25 President of the Republic of the Philippines.

26 Sec. 9. *Undersecretaries.* – The Secretary shall be assisted by three (3)  
27 Undersecretaries, who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon  
28 the recommendation of the Secretary, at least two (2) of whom shall be career  
29 officers. In general, the undersecretaries shall:

- 30 a) Advise and assist the Secretary in the formulation and implementation of  
31 department objectives and policies;



- 1 b) Oversee all the operational activities of the bureau or units for which he shall  
2 be responsible as assigned by the Secretary;
- 3 c) Coordinate the programs and projects of the same and be responsible for its  
4 economical, efficient and effective administration;
- 5 d) Whenever necessary be designated to serve as deputy to the Secretary in all  
6 matters relating to the operations of the department; the designated  
7 Undersecretary will temporarily discharge the duties of the Secretary in the  
8 latter's absence or inability to discharge his or her duties for any cause or in  
9 case of vacancy of the said office, unless otherwise provided by law; the  
10 President of the Philippines shall likewise make the temporary designation of  
11 Acting Secretary to the same; and
- 12 e) Perform such other functions and duties as may be provided by law.

13 Sec. 10. *Assistant Secretaries.* – Each Undersecretary shall be assisted by an  
14 Assistant Secretary shall be career officers and shall perform duties assigned by the  
15 Undersecretaries, who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon  
16 the recommendation of the Secretary.

17 Sec. 11. *Qualifications.* – No person shall be appointed Secretary,  
18 Undersecretary, or Assistant Secretary of the Department unless he or she is a  
19 citizen and resident of the Philippines, of good moral character, and of proven  
20 integrity, and with at least seven (7) years of competence/ expertise/ experience as  
21 manager, advocate, scholar or practitioner in fields of endeavor related to Philippine  
22 culture and the mandate and functions of the Department.

### 23 **ARTICLE III**

#### 24 **THE DEPARTMENT SERVICES**

25 Sec. 12. *Department Services.* – The Department of Culture shall have services  
26 which shall include the General Administrative Service, Financial Management  
27 Service, Policy and Planning Service, Legal Affairs Service, Physical Facilities  
28 Management Service, Human Resources Development Service, Strategic  
29 Communications and Initiatives Service, Knowledge and Information Systems,  
30 Project Evaluation and Monitoring Service, Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects  
31 Service, Internal Audit Service, Endowment Management Service, Grants  
32 Management Service.

1 **ARTICLE IV**  
2 **THE BUREAUS**

3 Sec. 13. *The Bureaus of the Department.* – The Department shall exercise  
4 supervision and control over the following four (6) Bureaus which are created under  
5 it:

- 6 a) Bureau of Cultural Communities and Traditional Arts Development – shall  
7 formulate and implement plans, programs and activities for the development  
8 of the different cultural communities all over the country, ensure the  
9 preservation and dissemination of the country's diverse cultures, establish  
10 schools' institutes for living traditions, encourage the continued practice and  
11 development of traditional arts and crafts, document the Indigenous  
12 Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP), and cause the recognition of  
13 outstanding traditional artists.
- 14 b) Bureau of Cultural Properties Protection and Regulation – shall be in charge of  
15 the registration and documentation of the nation's historical and cultural  
16 properties, issue permits and licenses, conduct inspection and assessment on  
17 cultural properties, implement Disaster Risk Reduction program for the cultural  
18 assets, enforce laws on cultural heritage conservation and intellectual property  
19 protection for artists and cultural experts.
- 20 c) Bureau of Cultural Properties Preservation – shall formulate and implement  
21 plans, programs, and activities for the preservation of tangible and intangible  
22 cultural heritage, provide architectural, engineering, scientific and  
23 conservation laboratory services, provide support to monuments and sites,  
24 museums and galleries and libraries and archives all over the country and  
25 establish a National Institute of Heritage Conservation.
- 26 d) Bureau of Artistic Resources – shall ensure the continuing and balance  
27 development of the nation's artistic heritage in its various forms; performing  
28 arts, film and media arts, visual arts, architecture and allied arts and literature,  
29 provide support to regional and local culture and arts centers, performing arts  
30 and exhibition venues, ensure the welfare of artists and cultural workers,  
31 undertake human resource development programs for artists, and establish  
32 the National Academy for Culture and Arts and National Institute for Culture



1 and Arts Management.

2 e) Bureau of Cultural Research, Education and Dissemination – shall undertake  
3 cultural research for policy and program development, publish cultural  
4 materials, especially on positive Filipino values for dissemination, manage the  
5 cultural education program for country, ensure the development and  
6 promotion of Philippine languages, implement national translation program,  
7 and implement national promotion program in various forms of media.

8 f) Bureau of Cultural and Creative Industries – shall formulate plans and  
9 programs to ignite the innovative and entrepreneurial mindset of Filipino  
10 artists and establish industries in the various genre of arts, performing arts,  
11 cinema, books and publications, creative designs, culinary and lifestyle and  
12 architecture and allied arts, and others.

13 Each Bureau shall be headed by a Bureau Director, who shall be assisted by  
14 one (1) Assistant Bureau Director. The Bureau Director and Assistant Bureau Director  
15 shall be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Secretary.

16 Sec. 14. *Powers and Duties of Bureau Director.* – The Bureau Director shall be  
17 its chief executive officer. He shall exercise overall authority in matters within the  
18 jurisdiction of the bureau, including those relating to its operations, and enforce all  
19 laws and regulations pertaining to it. Shall appoint personnel to all positions in his  
20 bureau or office, in accordance with law. In the case of the line bureau or office, the  
21 head shall also appoint the second level personnel of the regional offices, unless such  
22 power has been delegated. He shall have the authority to discipline employees in  
23 accordance with the Civil Service Law.

## 24 **ARTICLE V**

### 25 **THE REGIONAL AND FIELD OFFICES**

26 Sec. 15. *Regional Offices of the Department.* The Department is hereby  
27 authorized to establish, operate and maintain a Regional Office, whenever  
28 appropriate, in each of the administrative regions of the country. Each regional office  
29 shall be headed by a Regional Director, who may be assisted by one (1) Assistant  
30 Regional Director. The Regional Director and Assistant Regional Director shall be  
31 appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Secretary: Provided,  
32 that they shall be persons recognized as an accomplished manager, advocate, scholar



1 or practitioner in fields of endeavor related to Philippine culture in the region, or any  
2 suitably qualified person in accordance with Civil Service Commission (CSC) rules and  
3 regulations.

4 It may also establish satellite, extension or field offices when and wherever  
5 necessary, particularly in locations where significant cultural and heritage properties  
6 and concerns are identified to exist, and to support the operations, programs and  
7 projects of its attached and other concerned agencies and institutions. A regional  
8 office shall have, within its administrative region, the following functions:

- 9 a) Implement laws, policies, plans, programs, rules and regulations of the  
10 department or agency in the regional area;  
11 b) Provide economical, efficient and effective service to the people in the area;  
12 c) Undertake research and gather data on local culture and arts trends and other  
13 relevant cultural and artistic information;  
14 d) Cause to establish and oversee the regional and local culture and arts councils  
15 (as far as the city and municipal level) to engage participation of local artists  
16 and cultural workers;  
17 e) Coordinate with regional offices of other departments, bureaus and agencies  
18 in the area;  
19 f) Coordinate with local government units in the area;  
20 g) Make recommendations to the Secretary on all matters relating to culture and  
21 arts in the region; and,  
22 h) Perform such other functions as may be provided by law.

23 Sec. 16. *Duties of a Regional Director.* – The Regional Director shall perform  
24 duties and functions as may be provided by law or further delegated by the head of  
25 agency or other proper authorities concerned.

26 **ARTICLE VI**  
27 **THE ATTACHED AGENCIES, INSTITUTES, ADVISORY COUNCIL, OVERSEAS**  
28 **OFFICES**

29 Sec. 17. *The Attached Agencies.* –

- 30 a) The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) is hereby abolished,  
31 and their powers and functions, applicable funds and appropriations, records,  
32 equipment, property, and personnel transferred to the Department.

b) The following agencies are hereby attached to the Department for policy and program coordination, and shall continue to operate and function in accordance with the charters, laws or orders creating them, insofar as they are not inconsistent with this Act:

1. Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP)
2. National Museum of the Philippines (NMP)
3. National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP)
4. National Library of the Philippines (NLP)
5. National Archives of the Philippines (NAP)
6. Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF)
7. Intramuros Administration (IA)
8. National Parks Development Committee (NPDC)
9. Nayong Pilipino Foundation (NPF)
10. Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP)
11. National Book Development Board (NBDB)
12. Design Center of the Philippines

c) The laws and rules on government reorganization as provided for in Republic Act No. 6566, otherwise known as the Reorganization Law, shall govern the organization process of the Department.

Sec. 18. *National Institutes.* – The following National Institutes, with their respective networks throughout the country, shall be established under the Department:

- a) The National Institute of Living Traditions, and through it, a network of individual Schools of Living Traditions to be established, which, with the support of appropriate partnerships, shall be responsible for programs and projects related to the safeguarding, sustainability, propagation and intergenerational transmission of intangible cultural heritage, particularly that which pertains to indigenous cultural communities;
- b) The National Institute of Cultural Heritage Preservation, and through it, a network of individual *Escuela Talyer* (Workshop Schools) to be established, which, with the support of appropriate partnerships, shall be responsible for programs and projects related to national capacity building in the area of



1 conservation arts, sciences and trades with respect to the preservation of  
2 immovable and movable cultural property and with a particular focus on  
3 vocational training for youth; and

- 4 c) The National Institute of Culture and Arts Management, and through it, a  
5 network of individual Culture and Arts Management Training Centers to be  
6 established, which, with the support of appropriate partnerships, shall be  
7 responsible for programs and projects related to the education, training and  
8 certification of cultural officers and personnel as a necessary qualification for  
9 employment and promotion in the National Government and in local  
10 governments where such might be required by the Department in coordination  
11 with the Civil Service Commission and the Career Executive Service Board, at  
12 the career sub-professional, career professional, and career executive levels,  
13 to include appropriate courses and programs towards certificates, diplomas,  
14 and undergraduate and graduate degrees.

15 Sec. 19. *National Academy of Culture and Arts.* – There is hereby established  
16 under the Department a National Academy of Culture and Arts, which shall be an  
17 institutionalized association of the nation's foremost leaders and exponents of culture  
18 and arts, the primary purpose of which is to support the mandate of the Department  
19 as an independent body of eminent persons. The President of the Philippines shall  
20 be the Honorary Patron of the National Academy of Culture and Arts.

21 The structure and organization of the Academy, including the specification of  
22 its functions, procedures as to its governance and the selection of its members, and  
23 the composition of its secretariat, shall be contained in a charter to be formulated  
24 by the Department and promulgated by the President of the Philippines through an  
25 Executive Order within one (1) year of the effectivity of this Act.

26 Sec. 20. *Culture and Arts Advisory Councils.* – The Department shall facilitate  
27 the creation of a National Culture and Arts Advisory Council, a Regional Culture and  
28 Arts Advisory Council, and, a Local Culture and Arts Advisory Council, to assist the  
29 Department in the implementation of culture and arts initiatives.

30 Sec. 21. *Sectoral and Industry Task Forces.* – The Department may create a  
31 sectoral and industry task forces, technical working groups, advisory bodies or  
32 committees for the furtherance of its objectives. Additional private sector



representatives, such as from the academe, CSOs, and federation of private industries directly involved in culture and the arts as well as representatives of other LGUs, and GOCCs may be appointed to these working groups.

Sec. 22. *Rizal Centers.* – The Department shall, through a dedicated organizational unit to be established for the purpose, establish and manage Rizal Centers or *Sentro Rizal*, including those created under R.A. No. 10066 or the “National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009.” The primary purpose of the Rizal Centers shall be the promotion of, and the facilitation of access by the constituency of each center to, Philippine culture generally as well as the cultural resources managed by the Department and its attached agencies in particular.

Domestically, the Department shall establish *Sentro Rizal* as regional cultural centers and hubs, to be supervised and operated appropriately through its regional offices. Such regional centers shall include exhibition and performance venues and facilities enabling access to knowledge resources, particularly those pertaining to vernacular language resources.

Overseas, the Department shall continue to establish *Sentro Rizal* as Philippine cultural centers in key places for the benefit of the global diaspora of Philippine citizens, the global community of Filipino migrants or descendants thereof, and all who are interested in Philippine culture. The Department for this purpose shall coordinate with the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, and other concerned agencies.

*Sentro Rizal* established overseas shall have a dedicated budget and staff under the Department and be considered as overseas offices thereof, shall function as repositories of Philippine cultural resources, shall carry out active programs and projects to engage their respective constituencies, and shall offer courses in the national language and any other Filipino languages as may appropriate.

The operations of the *Sentro Rizal* network of the Department shall be considered as one its permanent flagship programs, and shall therefore be specifically provided for in the General Appropriations Act for every fiscal year.

Sec. 23. *Overseas Offices.* – The Department shall establish overseas offices whenever necessary to:

- a) Implement plans, programs and projects of the Department relative to

- 1 communities of Philippine citizens abroad;
- 2 b) Promote Filipino culture to the international community;
- 3 c) Coordinate with international organizations as well as with the overseas offices
- 4 of other departments, offices and agencies of the Philippine government; and
- 5 d) Perform such other functions as may be provided by law.

6 **ARTICLE VII**

7 **REORGANIZATION**

8 Sec. 24. *Reorganization.* – The laws and rules on government reorganization

9 as provided for in Republic Act No. 6656, otherwise known as the Reorganization

10 Law, shall govern the reorganization process of the Department and, where

11 appropriate, its attached agencies.

12 Sec. 25. *Structure and Staffing Pattern.* – Subject to the approval of the

13 Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Department and, where

14 appropriate, its attached agencies, shall determine its organizational structure and

15 create new divisions or units as it may deem necessary, and shall appoint officers

16 and employees of the Department and its attached agencies in accordance with the

17 Civil Service Law, rules, and regulations.

18 Sec. 26. *Transition Period.* – The transfer of functions, assets, funds,

19 equipment, properties, transactions, and personnel of affected agencies, and the

20 formulation of the internal organic structure, staffing pattern, operating system, and

21 revised budget of the Department, shall be completed within six (6) months from

22 the effectivity of this Act, during which time, the existing personnel shall continue

23 to assume their posts in holdover capacities until new appointments are issued;

24 *Provided,* that after the abolition of the agency, as specified in Section 17(a) of this

25 Act, the Department, in coordination with the DBM, shall determine and create new

26 positions, the funding requirement of which shall not exceed the equivalent cost of

27 positions abolished.

28 Sec. 27. *Separation from Service.* – Employees separated from the service as

29 a result of this reorganization shall, within ninety (90) days therefrom, receive the

30 separation and retirement benefits to which they may be entitled under Executive

31 Order No. 366. Provided that such separation pay and retirement benefits shall have

32 priority of payment out of the savings of the department or agency.



1 **ARTICLE VIII**

2 **PROPERTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT**

3 Sec. 28. *Post Office Building and Liwasang Bonifacio.* – The Post Office  
4 Building, currently the property of the Philippine Postal Corporation (PhilPost), and  
5 the area known as Liwasang Bonifacio (formerly Plaza Lawton), both in the City of  
6 Manila, are hereby appropriated for the exclusive use and central office premises of  
7 the Department of Culture and its attached agencies.

8 Sec. 29. *Other Properties.* – Real and movable properties owned by those  
9 agencies abolished or absorbed into the Department under this Act, namely the  
10 National Commission for Culture and the Arts Building and the Metropolitan Theatre,  
11 shall be transferred to the Department.

12 **ARTICLE IX**

13 **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

14 Sec. 30. *Appropriations.* – The amount needed for the initial implementation  
15 of this Act shall be taken from the current fiscal year's appropriation for the NCCA  
16 through the Office of the President, and other appropriations available for the  
17 purpose. Thereafter, the amount needed for the operation and maintenance of the  
18 Department proper shall be included in the General Appropriations Act, provided  
19 that for the next fiscal year, the amount shall be no less than Two Billion Pesos  
20 (Php2,000,000,000.00).

21 Sec. 31. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Office of the President,  
22 in consultation with other government agencies mentioned in this Act, shall  
23 promulgate its implementing rules and regulations within ninety (90) days after the  
24 effectivity of this Act.

25 Sec. 32. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is  
26 subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are  
27 not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

28 Sec. 33. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, acts, presidential decrees,  
29 executive orders, presidential proclamations, issuances, rules and regulations, or  
30 parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this  
31 Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

32 Sec. 34. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its



- 1 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.  
Approved,