



22 JUL 13 P5:20

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

RECEIVED BY:

SENATE

S. No. 552

Introduced by Senator **PIA S. CAYETANO**

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution mandates that the State shall "conserve, promote and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations."¹ It further emphasizes that "all the 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."²

The culture and heritage of our country play an important role in the lives of every Filipino, as it provides a sense of national identity which binds us together as a nation. However, in the past years, we have seen a lack of appreciation and wanton disregard for our cultural properties — important historical and heritage sites are not properly preserved and protected. The limited regional presence of cultural offices also became a huge hindrance in the implementation of various cultural programs. In order to address these perennial problems, the need for strong policies and effective enforcement of relevant laws on the protection of our culture is immediate and necessary.

¹ Sec. 15, Art. XIV of the 1987 Constitution

² Sec. 16, Art. XIV of the 1987 Constitution

This bill was filed by the undersigned last 18th Congress, in collaboration with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). It proposes to reorganize NCCA to a Department of Culture, in order to create a national body, with the corresponding personnel and budgetary requirement that will be responsible for the implementation of policy and strategic direction for the protection, regulation, preservation, and management of the country's culture. The Department will also have quasi-judicial functions which will allow it to effectively safeguard the cultural properties of the country.

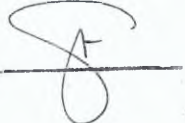
The Department will likewise ensure support for the development of our cultural, artistic, and creative industries and assist in the implementation of culture and arts initiatives. In line with this, the said Department will help in the attainment of our Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Goal No. 11, Target 11. 4, which calls for strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

For these reasons, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


PIA S. CAYETANO *PSB*

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ADB: 

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Introduced by Senator **PIA S. CAYETANO**

**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:

ARTICLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Department of Culture Act.*"

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

a) To recognize that culture is a unifying, humanizing and modernizing agent/instrument of any society, and the patrimony and right of every citizen of the Philippines;

b) To recognize the vital role of culture in nation-building;

c) To incorporate considerations of culture in the formulation of appropriate and significant political and economic policy that will better serve Filipinos and ensure that all Filipinos enjoy full cultural rights, take full advantage of a dynamic cultural experience, and be inspired, sustained by, draw from, contribute to and celebrate the country's culture;

d) To create a national body which will develop, manage and be responsible for the implementation of policy, legislation and strategic direction for the protection, regulation, preservation, development, management, 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
9 therefore ensure that cultural literacy is inculcated in the development and
10 education of all Filipinos;

11 g) To promote the national language of the country while enhancing the
12 linguistic 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 arts in
15 the context of the country's developmental goals.

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

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
21 cultural significance of a cultural property, including but not limited to,
22 preservation, restoration, reconstruction, protection, adaptive re-use any
23 combination 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
27 books), National Historical Commission of the Philippines (Philippine
28 history), the National Archives of the Philippines (documents) the Cultural
29 Center of the Philippines (culture and arts) and the Komisyon sa Wikang
30 Filipino (language)

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

1 traditional domains or who may have resettled outside their ancestral
2 domains;

3 j) "Intangible Cultural Heritage" shall refer to practices, representations,
4 expressions, knowledge, skills, as well as instrument, objects and artifacts
5 associated therewith, that communities, groups and individual recognize as
6 part of their cultural heritage, such as: (1) oral traditions, usages, customs,
7 languages and other expressions; (2) performing arts; (3) social practices,
8 religious rites, rituals, culinary traditions, and festive events; (4) knowledge
9 and practices concerning nature and the universe, worship and (5)
10 traditional craftsmanship.

11 **ARTICLE II**

12 **The Department of Culture**

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

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

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

28 *Sec. 5. General Mandates.* - The Department shall exercise the following
29 mandates:

- 1 a) To protect and promote the diversity of cultural and artistic expressions and
2 foster the development of creative industries;
3 b) To conserve, safeguard, and develop the country's historical and cultural
4 heritage; and,
5 c) To ensure the widest dissemination of the artistic and cultural products
6 among the greatest number across the country and overseas.

7 Sec. 6. *Powers and Functions.* - The Department shall exercise the following
8 powers and functions:

- 9 a) Formulate and Implement national policies, plans, programs, and guidelines
10 for the protection, preservation, safeguarding, regulation, development,
11 management, dissemination and promotion of culture, to ensure overall
12 consistency, effectiveness, efficiency, and conformity with the policies of
13 the State articulated in the Constitution as well as in this Act and other
14 pertinent laws and issuances;
15 b) Assume and exercise all existing regulatory and quasi-judicial functions
16 established under Republic Act No. 4846, or "*The Cultural Properties*
17 *Preservation and Protection Act,*" Presidential Decree No. 374, or
18 "*Amending the Cultural Properties Preservation and Protection Act,*"
19 Republic Act No. 8491, or "*The Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines,*"
20 Republic Act No. 9105, or "*Art and Forgery Act of 2001,*" Republic Act No.
21 10066, or "*The National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009,*" and, Republic Act
22 No. 10086 or "*Strengthening Peoples' Nationalism Through Philippine*
23 *History Act,*" and all regulatory functions transferred to the National
24 Commission for Culture and the Arts through Republic Act No. 11333 or
25 "National Museum of the Philippines Act" as well as such functions
26 promulgated through executive issuances that pertain to the agencies of
27 the National Government covered under this Act, which are all hereby
28 transferred *in toto* to the Department from the said agencies;
29

- 1 c) Be responsible for disaster risk reduction and management relative to
2 culture and cultural property, both through its own programs and projects
3 as well as through the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
4 Council and Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils, on
5 which it shall have full membership, representation and participation;
- 6 d) Recommend to the President of the Philippines the designation, through
7 Presidential Proclamation, with appropriate published guidelines pertaining
8 thereto, of a cultural property, whether immovable or movable, tangible or
9 intangible, as a National Cultural Monument, a category hereby established
10 which incorporates the previously-established legal definitions of, criteria
11 pertaining to, and all cultural property previously declared by authorized
12 agencies as National Cultural Treasure, National Historical Landmark,
13 National Historical Shrine, National Historical Monument, and National
14 Historical Site;
- 15 e) Designate, through Department Order, and with appropriate published
16 guidelines pertaining thereto, cultural property, whether immovable or
17 movable, tangible or intangible, as National Cultural Property, a category
18 hereby established which incorporates the previously-established legal
19 definitions of, criteria pertaining to, and all cultural property previously
20 declared by authorized agencies as Important Cultural Property and
21 Heritage House;
- 22 f) Administer the qualification and selection, with appropriate published
23 guidelines pertaining thereto, of the Award for National Living Treasures
24 (Gawad sa Manlilikha ng Bayan), which is hereby renamed as the Order of
25 National Living Treasures (Orden ng mga Pambansang Manlilikha ng
26 Bayan), and the Order of National Artists (Orden ng mga Pambansang
27 Alagad ng Sining), and recommend those nominees to either Order who
28 have been qualified and selected to the President of the Philippines for
29 proclamation as such and conferral of the same;

- 1 g) Administer the qualification, selection and conferral of such other awards
2 as it may establish in support of its mandate;
- 3 h) Undertake the education, training and certification of cultural officers and
4 personnel as a necessary qualification for employment and promotion in the
5 National Government and in local governments where such might be
6 required by the Department in coordination with the Civil Service
7 Commission and the Career Executive Service Board, at the career sub-
8 professional, career professional, and career executive levels, to include
9 appropriate courses and programs towards certificates, diplomas, and
10 undergraduate and graduate degrees, through the establishment of the
11 following, but not limited to, National Institutes:
- 12 1. National Institute of Language and Translation
 - 13 2. National Institute of Living Traditions
 - 14 3. National Institute of Cultural Heritage Conservation
 - 15 4. National Institute of Cultural and Creative Industries
- 16 i) Support the development of the cultural, artistic and creative industries of
17 the country, in all particulars and at all levels;
- 18 j) Administer the endowment funds established separately under Section 20
19 of Republic Act No. 7356, The Law Creating the National Commission for
20 culture and the Arts: "and Section 50 of Republic Act No. 10066, which are
21 herein consolidated into a single National Endowment Fund for Culture and
22 Arts (NEFCA) that shall continue to be sourced and augmented as provided
23 by the aforementioned provisions, and provide financial support from this
24 fund for various national programs through a system of grants drawing from
25 the proceeds, including both principal and interest, of the same, subject to
26 the approval of the Department of Budget and Management.
- 27 k) Create a National Culture and Arts Advisory Council, and Regional Culture
28 and Arts Committees, to assist the Department in the implementation of
29 culture and arts initiatives.

1 l) The Department may create sectoral and industry task forces, technical
2 working groups, advisory bodies or committees for the furtherance of its
3 objectives. Additional private sector representatives, such as from the
4 academe, COs, and federation of private industries directly involved in
5 culture and the arts as well as representatives of other LGs, and GOCCs
6 may be appointed to these working groups.

7 m) Other powers and functions as may be created, assigned or transferred by
8 the President of the Philippines in accordance with law.

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

14 *Sec. 8. Secretary of Culture.* - The authority and responsibility for the exercise of
15 the mandate of the Department and for the discharge of its powers and functions shall
16 be vested in the Secretary, who shall have supervision and control of the Department
17 and shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines, subject to the confirmation by
18 the Commission on Appointments.

19 *Sec. 9. Powers and Functions of the Secretary.* - The Secretary shall have
20 the following powers and functions:

- 21 a) Provide executive direction and supervision over the entire operations
22 of the Department and exercise administrative supervision over its
23 attached agencies;
- 24 b) Establish policies and standards for the effective, efficient and
25 economical operation of the Department, in accordance with the
26 programs of government;
- 27 c) Promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out department
28 mandates, objectives, policies, functions, plans, programs and projects;
- 29 d) Promulgate administrative Issuances necessary for the efficient
30 administration of the offices under the Secretary and for proper

1 execution of the laws relative thereto. These issuances shall not
2 prescribe penalties for their violation, except when expressly authorized
3 by law;

- 4 e) Rationalize delivery systems necessary for the effective attainment of
5 the objectives of the Department, in accordance with the programs of
6 Government;
- 7 f) Appoint all officers and employees of the Department except those
8 whose appointments are vested in the President or in some other
9 appointing authority and shall appoint employees to positions in the
10 second level in the regional; offices as defined in this Act and in
11 accordance with the Civil Service laws, rules and regulations;
- 12 g) Exercise disciplinary powers over officers and employees under the
13 Secretary in accordance with law, including their investigation and the
14 designation if a committee or officer to conduct such investigation;
- 15 h) Sit on the governing boards of attached agencies as provided in this Act,
16 as well as any other agencies or organizations as may be appropriate or
17 designated;
- 18 i) Coordinate with local governments, other agencies and public and
19 private interest's groups. including non-government organizations
20 (NGOs) and people's organizations (POs) on Department policies and
21 initiatives;
- 22 j) Advise the President of the Philippines and make recommendations on
23 the promulgation of executive and administrative orders and regulatory
24 and legislative proposals on matters pertaining to culture;
- 25 k) Formulate and enforce a system of measuring and evaluating
26 periodically and objectively the performance of the Department and
27 submit the same annually to the President;
- 28 l) Prepare and submit to the President through the Department of Budget
29 and Management an estimate of the necessary expenditures of the

- 1 department during the next fiscal year, on the basis of the reports and
2 estimates submitted by bureaus and officers under the Department;
- 3 m) Exercise jurisdiction over all bureaus, offices, agencies and corporations
4 under the Department as are provided by law; and,
- 5 n) Represent the Philippines in matters pertaining to culture in overseas
6 regional and international organizations and events.
- 7 o) Performs such other functions as may be provided by law or assigned
8 by the President of the Republic of the Philippines.

9 *Sec. 10. Undersecretaries.* - The Secretary shall be assisted by three (3)
10 Undersecretaries, who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the
11 recommendation of the Secretary, two (2) of whom shall be appointed officers and 1
12 (one) shall be a career officer. In general, the undersecretaries shall:

- 13 a) Advise and assist the Secretary in the formulation and implementation
14 of department objectives and policies;
- 15 b) Oversee all the operational activities of the bureau or units for which he
16 shall be responsible as assigned by the Secretary;
- 17 c) Coordinate the programs and projects of the same and be responsible
18 for its economical, efficient and effective administration;
- 19 d) Whenever necessary be designated to serve as deputy to the Secretary
20 in all matters relating to the operations of the department; the
21 designated Undersecretary will temporarily discharge the duties of the
22 Secretary in the latter's absence or inability to discharge his or her duties
23 for any cause or case of vacancy of the said office, unless otherwise
24 provided by law; the President of the Philippines shall likewise make the
25 temporary designation Acting Secretary to the same; and
- 26 e) Perform such other functions and duties as may be provided by law.

27 *Sec. 11. Assistant Secretaries.* - Each Undersecretary shall be assisted by an
28 Assistant Secretary shall be career officers and shall perform duties assigned by the
29 Undersecretaries, who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the
30 recommendation of the Secretary.

1 practice and development of traditional arts and crafts, document the
2 Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP), and cause the
3 recognition of outstanding traditional artists.

4 b) *Bureau of Cultural Properties Protection and Regulation* - shall be in-charge
5 of the registration and documentation of the nation's historical and cultural
6 properties, issue permits and license, conduct inspection and assessment
7 on cultural properties, implement Disaster Risk Reduction program for the
8 cultural assets, enforce laws on cultural heritage conservation and
9 intellectual property protection for artists and cultural experts, and accredit
10 and provide standards for the classification and professionalization of
11 artists.

12 c) *Bureau of Cultural Properties Preservation* - shall formulate and implement
13 plans, programs, and activities for the preservation of tangible and
14 intangible cultural heritage, provide architectural, engineering, scientific,
15 and conservation laboratory services, provide support to monuments and
16 sites, museums and galleries and libraries and archives all over the country.

17 d) *Bureau of Artistic Resources Development* - shall ensure the continuing and
18 balance development of the nation's artistic heritage in its various forms;
19 performing arts, film and media arts, visual arts, architecture and allied arts
20 and literature, provide support to regional and local culture and arts centers,
21 performing arts and exhibition venues, ensure the welfare of artists and
22 cultural workers, undertake human resource development programs for
23 artists.

24 e) *Bureau of Philippine Languages, Cultural Research, Education, and*
25 *Dissemination* - shall undertake cultural research for policy and program
26 development, publish cultural materials, especially on positive Filipino
27 values for dissemination, manage the cultural education program for the
28 country, ensure the development and promotion of Philippine languages,
29 implement national translation program; and implement national promotion
30 program in various forms of media,

1 f) *Bureau of Creative Industries* - shall formulate plans and programs to ignite
2 the innovative and entrepreneurial mindset of Filipino artists and establish
3 industries in the various genre of arts; performing arts, cinema, books and
4 publications, creative designs, culinary lifestyle and architecture and allied
5 arts, and others.

6 Each bureau shall work in close coordination and provide support, if necessary, to
7 the concerned attached agencies.

8 Each Bureau shall be headed by a Bureau Director, who shall be assisted by one
9 (1) Assistant Bureau Director. The Bureau Director and Assistant Bureau Director shall
10 be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Secretary. Provided, that
11 he or she is a citizen and resident of the Philippines, of good moral character, and of
12 proven integrity. Provided, further, that the Assistant Bureau Director shall be either a
13 career officer or with a relevant number of years of competence/expertise/experience as
14 manager, advocate, scholar, or practitioner in fields of endeavor related to Philippine
15 culture and the arts.

16 *Sec. 15. Powers and Duties of Bureau Director.* -The Bureau Director shall be its
17 chief executive officer. He shall exercise overall authority in matters within the jurisdiction
18 of the bureau, including those relating to its operations, and enforce all laws and
19 regulations pertaining to it. Shall appoint personnel to all positions in his bureau or office,
20 in accordance with law. In the case of the line bureau or office, the head shall also appoint
21 the second level personnel of the regional offices, unless such power has been delegated.
22 He shall have the authority to discipline employees in accordance with the Civil Service
23 Law.

24 **ARTICLE V**

25 **The Regional and Field Offices**

26 *Sec. 16. Regional Offices of the Department.* - The Department is hereby
27 authorized to establish, operate and maintain a Regional Office, whenever appropriate,
28 in each of the administrative regions of the country. Each regional office shall be headed
29 by a Regional Director, who may be assisted by one (1) Assistant Regional Director. The
30 Regional Director and Assistant Regional Director shall be appointed by the President

1 upon the recommendation of the Secretary: Provided, that they shall be persons
2 recognized as an accomplished manager, advocate, scholar or practitioner in fields of
3 endeavor related to Philippine culture in the region, or any suitably qualified person in
4 accordance with Civil Service Commission (SC) rules and regulations.

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

- 10 a) Implement laws, policies, plans, programs, rules and regulations of the
11 department or agency in the regional area;
- 12 b) Provide economical, efficient and effective service to the people in the area;
- 13 c) Undertake research and gather data on local culture and arts trends and other
14 relevant cultural and artistic information;
- 15 d) Cause to establish and oversee the regional and local culture and arts councils
16 (as far as the city and municipal level) to engage participation of local artists
17 and cultural workers;
- 18 e) Create Regional Committees (RC) to expedite the implementation of plans and
19 strategies for the furtherance of its objectives, which shall be composed of
20 experts from various culture and arts disciplines. The rules and regulations of
21 the Regional Committees shall be determined by the Regional Office. The
22 Regional Director shall sit as an ex-officio member of the RCs.
- 23 f) Coordinate with regional offices of other departments, bureaus and agencies
24 in the area;
- 25 g) Coordinate with local government units in the area;
- 26 h) Make recommendations to the Secretary on all matters relating to culture and
27 arts in the region; and,
- 28 i) Perform such other functions as may be provided by law

1 The National Library of the Philippines shall be responsible for the
2 administration of the National Library building as a repository of the printed
3 and recorded cultural heritage of the country and other intellectual literary
4 and other information sources, and shall also be responsible for the
5 provision of access to such resources.

6 *5. National Archives of the Philippines (NAP)*

7 The National Archives of the Philippines shall be responsible for the
8 maintenance and development of the National Archives building to house
9 the country's archival and public records; and shall conduct archival
10 researches using archival materials here and abroad and cause the
11 publication and dissemination of valuable archival information that are
12 public in nature.

13 *6. Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF)*

14 The Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino shall be tasked with the conduct of
15 research and other language studies and shall coordinate with the Bureau
16 of Philippine Languages, Cultural Research, Education, and Dissemination
17 for the promotion of the evolution, development, enrichment and eventual
18 standardization of Filipino and other Philippine Languages.

19 *7. Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP)*

20 The Film Development Council of the Philippines shall be responsible with
21 the establishment and implementation of a Cinema Evaluation System in
22 accordance with the criteria set forth in RA 9167 and shall develop and
23 Implement an incentive and reward system for the producers based on
24 merit to encourage the production of quality films.

25 *8. National Book Development Board (NBDB)*

26 The National Book Development Board shall be responsible for the
27 formulation, adoption, and implementation of a National Book Development
28 Plan that will serve as the basis for fostering the progressive growth and
29 viability of the country's book industry.

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

4 Sec. 19. *Culture and Arts Advisory Councils.* - The National Culture and Arts Advisory
5 Council shall be composed of the seventeen (17) representatives from their respective
6 Regional Committees. The National Culture and Arts Advisory Council shall perform the
7 following functions:

8 a) Assess the general conditions of Philippine culture and the arts, and propose
9 approaches, including policies and programs that may be adopted by the
10 Department;

11 b) Serve as a forum for the discussion of matters affecting the Regional
12 Committees or the cultural sector, anchored on the strengthening of linkages,
13 the exchange of information, and the formulation of coherent guidelines and
14 policies; and

15 c) Initiate, formulate, and advocate a coordinated and common stand on
16 significant cultural Issues or concerns; and,

17 d) Perform any other advisory function as may be deemed by the Department.

18 Sec. 20. *Rizal Centers.* - The Department shall, through a dedicated organizational
19 unit to be established for the purpose, establish and manage centers, to be known as
20 Rizal Centers or *Sentro Rizal*, overseas, the primary purpose of which shall be the
21 promotion of, and the facilitation of access by the constituency of each center to,
22 Philippine culture generally as well as the cultural resources managed by the Department
23 and its attached agencies in particular.

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

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

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

9
10 **ARTICLE VII**
11 **ORGANIZATION**

12 *Sec. 21. Reorganization.* - The laws and rules on government reorganization as
13 provided for in Republic Act No. 6656, otherwise known as the Reorganization Law, shall
14 govern the reorganization process of the Department and, where appropriate, its
15 attached agencies.

16 *Sec. 22. Structure and Staffing Pattern.* - Subject to the approval of the
17 Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Department and, where appropriate,
18 its attached agencies, shall determine its organizational structure and create new divisions
19 or units as it may deem necessary, and shall appoint officers and employees of the
20 Department and its attached agencies in accordance with the Civil Service Law, rules,
21 and regulations.

22 *Sec. 23. Transition Period.* - The transfer of functions, assets, funds, equipment,
23 properties, transactions, and personnel of affected agencies, and the formulation of the
24 internal organic structure, staffing pattern, operating system, and revised budget of the
25 Department, shall be completed within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act,
26 during which time, the existing personnel shall continue to assume their posts in holdover
27 capacities until new appointments are issued; Provided, that after the abolition of the
28 agency, the Department, in coordination with the DBM, shall determine and create new
29 positions.

1 Sec. 29. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
2 regulations and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with this Act are
3 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

4 Sec. 30. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act shall be declared
5 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full
6 force and effect.

7 Sec. 31. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its
8 publication in at least two (2) papers of general circulation.

Approved,