

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
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SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 959

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

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**RESOLUTION**  
**CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE NINE RECIPIENTS**  
**OF THE GAWAD SA MANLIKHA NG BAYAN (GAMABA)**  
**AWARD OR THE NATIONAL LIVING TREASURES AWARD FOR**  
**2023 FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE**  
**PROMOTION AND SAFEGUARDING OF OUR PHILIPPINE**  
**CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**WHEREAS**, Article XIV, Section 15 of the Philippine Constitution provides that “arts and letters shall enjoy the patronage of the State and that the State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation’s historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations”;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 7355, also known as the Manlilikha ng Bayan Act, defines a “Manlilikha ng Bayan” as a “citizen or a group of citizens engaged in any traditional art uniquely Filipino, whose distinctive skills have reached such a high level of technical and artistic excellence and have been passed on to and widely practiced by the present generation in his/her community with the same degree of technical and artistic competence”;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 7355 was enacted to ensure the continuity of Philippine traditions through the promotion and preservation of artistic practices. It also seeks to recognize individuals as “Manlilikha ng Bayan” who have achieved a high level of technical and artistic excellence in traditional Filipino arts;

**WHEREAS**, Ferdinand Marcos Jr. declared nine (9) new Manlilikha ng Bayan awardees for 2023 through Proclamation no. 427, s. 2023, signed on December 15, 2023;

**WHEREAS**, the nine recipients of the Gawad sa Manlilikha ng Bayan for 2023 are as follows:

1. Adelita Romualdo Bagcal - Ilocano master of oral traditions from Banna, Ilocos Norte, recognized for her commitment to safeguarding and promoting the *dallot* and other Ilocano oral traditions;
2. Abina Tawide Coguit - Agusan Manobo embroiderer from La Paz, Agusan del Sur, recognized for her commitment to safeguarding and promoting the Agusan Manobo *suyam* (embroidery) tradition;
3. Sakinur-ain Mugong Delasas - Sama master of traditional dance from Bongao, Tawi-Tawi; recognized for her commitment to safeguarding and promoting the Sama *Igal* (dance) tradition;
4. Bundos Bansil Fara - T'boli brasscaster from Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, recognized for his commitment to safeguarding and promoting the T'boli *temwel* (brasscasting) tradition;
5. Marife Ravidas Ganahon - Higaonon mat weaver from Malaybalay, Bukidnon, recognized for her commitment to safeguarding and promoting the Higaonon *ikam* (mat weaving) tradition;
6. Amparo Balansi Mabanag - Ga'dang embroiderer from Paracelis, Mountain Province, recognized for her commitment to safeguarding and promoting the Ga'dang *manu'bak* and *ameru* (beadworks and embroidery) traditions;
7. Samporonia Pagsac Madanlo - Mandaya *ikat* weaver from Caraga, Davao Oriental, recognized for her commitment to safeguarding and promoting the Mandaya *dagmay* (*ikat* weaving) tradition;
8. Barbara Kibed Ofong - T'boli *ikat* weaver from Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, recognized for her commitment to safeguarding and promoting the T'boli *t'nalak* (*ikat* weaving) tradition; and
9. Rosie Godwino Sula - T'boli chanter from Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, recognized for her commitment to safeguarding and promoting the T'boli *lingon* (chanting) tradition;

**WHEREAS**, the Senate of the Philippines recognizes that the GAMABA or the National Living Treasures Award serves as a perpetual reminder of the paramount importance of preserving our country's rich culture. The awardees have excelled in age-old traditional arts and expressions, playing a crucial role in sharing these practices within their respective communities. Their works are deserving of admiration and serve as an inspiration for every Filipino.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Senate of the Philippines congratulate and commend the nine recipients of the Gawad sa Manlilikha ng Bayan (GAMABA) Award or the National Living Treasures Award for 2023 for their exemplary contributions to the promotion and safeguarding of our Philippine cultural heritage.

*Adopted,*



**LOREN LEGARDA**  
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