


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

7 OCT 10 P2:42

SENATE
S. B. No. 1720

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA

Explanatory Note

Books play an integral part in a country's intellectual, technical and cultural development. They are the most effective and economical tools for achieving educational growth, imparting information and recording, preserving, and disseminating the nation's cultural heritage.

Unfortunately, only few of the books in our libraries and bookstores are of local publications. The Philippines has the lowest output in terms of book titles compared to our neighbors in Southeast Asia. According to statistics released by the Philippine National Library, the number of books published [based on the number of International Book Numbers (ISBNs) issued] since 2000 is an average of 5,326.5 per year only.

Furthermore, authors based in the National Capital Region, where most of the big publishers are based, write most of the local books. Many of our talented authors and writers from different regions of the country can put in writing their knowledge and local histories and some scientific and technical books that fit their local contexts while others can translate classic works into the local languages. Some authors have begun manuscripts or research works that are taking too long to finish because of lack of resources and because they are preoccupied with earning a living for themselves and their loved ones.

Another problem of the book industry is the very slow expansion of the non-textbooks. According to a 2005 report on the local book publishing industry, textbooks and general reference books are the "mainstay" of the industry, accounting for about 70% of the total book output. An example is the experience of University of the Philippines Press, which has an average print run for a literary title (poetry, fiction, etc.) of only 1,000; and that very few of these titles are ever reprinted. This is dismaying, particularly since many of these books are produced by winners of the country's highest literary awards, with international publications to their name.

This likewise confirms the findings of the Social Weather Station (SWS) study commissioned by the National Book Development Board (NBDB) on Filipino Book Readership, Reading Attitudes and Reading Preferences in 2003, that 91% of respondents who read non-school books did so to get information or gain additional knowledge, rather than for plain enjoyment or amusement. According to the same study, those respondents who read non-school books, preferred the Bible, followed by romance novelettes and there was no data for literary titles.

This proposed legislation is an attempt at helping both veteran and promising authors in the regions to produce or finish manuscripts for publications in the fields of science and technology, local history, and in subject areas wherein local books are either few or non-existent through the creation of a National Book Development Trust Fund from which grants can be offered to deserving authors in the regions so they can concentrate full time working on their manuscripts or research works for publication.



If approved, the interest of this Trust Fund would be able to finance annually at least sixty five (65) grants, which would be distributed equitably among the regions. This measure would also create a dynamic book trade within different regions that could contribute to the rich literature pool of the country.

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



EDGARDO J. ANGARA
Senator


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AN ACT CREATING
A NATIONAL BOOK DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND TO
SUPPORT FILIPINO AUTHORSHIP

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title** - This Act shall be known as the "*National Book*
2 *Development Trust Fund Act*"

3
4 **SECTION 2. Statement of Policy.** It is the policy of the State to promote the
5 continuing development of the book publishing industry in all regions of the country,
6 as stated in the 1995 Book Publishing Industry Development (RA 8047). Since
7 authorship is one of the major components of book publishing, the National Book
8 Policy obliges the State to create an excellent environment for the promotion of
9 Filipino authorship *and* other creative activities in book development.

10 **SECTION 3. The National Book Development Trust Fund** – A
11 National Book Development Trust Fund is hereby established exclusively for
12 the support and promotion of Filipino authorship especially in Science and
13 Technology and in subject areas wherein locally authored books are either few or non-
14 existent

15 (a) The contribution of the Fund shall be sourced from the following:

- 16 1. The amount of fifty million pesos (P50,000,000.00) shall be taken
17 from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation
18 (PAGCOR) fund at Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00) per month
19 for ten (10) months
20 2. Another amount of fifty million pesos (50,000,000.00) shall be
21 taken from *the* Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office
22 (PCSO) at Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00) per month for
23 ten (10) months

1 (b) Only the Interest drawn from the Fund shall be awarded as grants to promote
2 Filipino authorship and to support the completion of local manuscripts or
3 research works for publication.

4 (c) The grants can be awarded only after one (1) year from the organization of
5 the Fund, and the grants shall be awarded equitably among the regions.

6 (d) Government corporations are hereby authorized to give grants to the Fund at
7 their discretion, but not to exceed fifteen percent (15%) of their unimpaired
8 surplus.

9 (e) The private portion of the Fund shall be raised from donations and
10 other conveyances including funds, materials, property and services, by
11 gratuitous title

12 (f) Contributions to the Fund shall be deductible for income tax
13 purposes in accordance with the provision of Section 29 (h) (a) of the
14 National Internal Revenue Code.

15
16 (g) The National Book Development Board (NBDB) shall be the
17 administrator of the Fund.

18 (h) For the sound and judicious management of the Fund, the NBDB shall
19 appoint a government financial institution as portfolio manager of the
20 Fund, subject to guidelines promulgated by the NBDB.

21 (i) The NBDB shall prepare the implementing guidelines and decision -
22 making mechanisms, subject to the following;

23 1. Unless otherwise stipulated by the private donor, only earnings of
24 private contributions shall be used for grants.

25 2. No part of the seed capital of the Fund, including earnings, thereof,
26 shall be used to underwrite overhead expenses for administration.

27 3. There shall be an external auditor to perform an annual audit of the
28 Fund's performance,

29 4. The Fund shall be exempt from pre-audit by the Commission on Audit

30 **SECTION 4. Separability Clause.** Any portion or provision of this Act
31 that may be declared unconstitutional shall not the effect of nullifying other
32 portions or provisions thereof as long as such remaining portions or provisions
33 can still subsist and be given effect in the entirety

1 **SECTION 5. *Saving Clause.*** All laws, rules, regulations_ other issuances or
2 parts which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby replaced or modified accordingly.

3 **SECTION 6. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect immediately upon its
4 approval.

5

6 Approved,