


10 JUL -8 AM:16

SENATE

S. No. 967

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Filipinos are known for their artistic creativity. In the international arena, the Philippines is acknowledged as a country of excellent crooners, actors of bravado and a haven of brilliant writers, painters and sculptors.

Among the distinguished Filipinos known for their genuine artistry and craftsmanship and who have contributed greatly to the nation's rich cultural heritage are Vicente Manansala, Cesar Legaspi, Jose Joya, Lucrecia Kasilag, Lino Brocka, Nick Joaquin, Nicanor Abelardo, Atang dela Rama, Lamberto Avellana, *Ang* Kiukok, Lucio San Pedro, Levi Celerio, and Eddie Romero.

The National Artist Award (*Gawad Artista ng Bayan*) is bestowed to outstanding Filipinos who influenced with their arts our way of living. It is an award which recognizes pure God-given talents impressing the essence of Filipino nationhood. An award for those whose works and masterpieces breathe life and serve as a panorama of distinctive Filipino society.

This bill seeks to make it a policy not to make any distinction as regards the awarding of cash prizes to winners. All *Artista ng Bayan*, whether living or cited posthumously, shall receive an equivalent cash prize. This is significant considering that most artists die poor because of their devotion and loyalty to their arts. And this, as a fitting tribute to Filipino genius and masters, the grant of each prize to them.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate cognizance of this legislation is earnestly sought.


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator


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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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AN ACT
GRANTING CASH PRIZES AND OTHER INCENTIVES TO ALL NATIONAL
ARTISTS OR "ARTISTA NG BAYAN" AWARDEES, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. All National Artists or "Artista ng Bayan" awardees, including those awarded with posthumous recognition, shall be given cash prizes as determined and fixed from time to time and as deemed necessary by the award governing body.

The family or beneficiary of the posthumous awards shall be entitled to the cash prizes provided in this Act, in addition to the other prizes which include presidential medallion or other recognition awarded and accorded to the winners: *Provided*, That the term "family" or "beneficiary" as used in this Act shall refer to the surviving legal spouse and his legitimate children, or parents, or brothers and sisters, in that order: *Provided, further*, That the grant of cash prizes under this Act shall have retroactive application.

SEC. 2. Appropriation. - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified, superseded or amended accordingly.

SEC. 4. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,