

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



'17 JUL 24 A11 :23

SENATE

S.B. No. 1504 RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senator LOREN LEGARDA

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING PHILIPPINE PARTICIPATION IN THE
INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS OF THE VENICE BIENNALE

Explanatory Note

With the inception of the 1895 International Art Exhibition in Venice, the Venice Art Biennale remains the oldest and most prestigious international contemporary art exhibition. Now on its 57th edition, Biennale Arte is held every other year since 1985. The first Biennale was opened on April 30, 1895 by the King and Queen of Italy, Umberto I and Margherita di Savoia.

In the following years, exhibitions and festivals for the other arts were established: Biennale Musica in 1930 (International Festival of Contemporary Music), Biennale Teatro in 1934 (International Theater Festival), and the Venice Film Festival in 1934 (Venice International Film Festival).

The first Philippine participation in the Venice Biennale was in 1964 during the 32nd Venice Art Biennale through the initiatives of the Art Association of the Philippines, where the works of painter Jose Joya and sculptor Napoleon Abueva were exhibited. In 2015, the Philippines returned to the Venice Biennale and participated in the 56th International Art Exhibition. After a 51-year hiatus, the Philippines showcased an exhibition curated by Dr. Patrick Flores titled *Tie A String Around the World*, featuring the works of Jose Tence Ruiz, Manny Montelibano and National Artists Manuel Conde and Carlos "Botong" Francisco.

In 2016, the Philippines' first participation in the International Architecture Exhibition was marked by the exhibition curated by Andy Locsin, Jr. and Architects Sudarshan Khadka, Jr. and Juan Paolo dela Cruz, titled *Muhon: Traces of an Adolescent City*. In 2017, the Philippine Pavilion in the 57th International Art Exhibition is represented by the exhibition titled *The Spectre of Comparison* curated by Joselina Cruz and which featured artists Lani Maestro and Manuel Ocampo.

Country participation is formalized through a letter invitation from the President of the Fondazione la Biennale di Venezia, the arts organization that

operates and administers the biennale, addressed to the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the highest cultural agency of the country.

This bill seeks to institutionalize the country's participation yearly in the international exhibitions of the Venice Biennale. To carry out the mandate under this Act, the Philippine Arts in Venice Biennale Coordinating Committee (PAVB-CC) is hereby created, to be lodged in the NCCA.

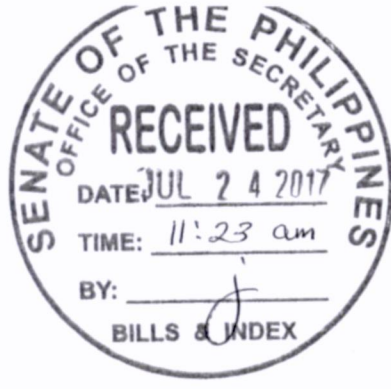
Recognizing the important role of the arts in fostering patriotism and nationalism, and the vital role of culture and the arts in democratic and inclusive nation-building, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



LOREN LEGARDA

Senator

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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SENATE
Senate Bill No. 1504

Introduced By SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING PHILIPPINE PARTICIPATION IN THE
INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS OF THE VENICE BIENNALE

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the
2 “Philippine Arts in Venice Biennale Act of 2017.”
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4 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared policy
5 of the state to:
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- 7 a) Recognize the important role of the arts in fostering patriotism
8 and nationalism and promoting human liberation and
9 development;
- 10 b) Recognize the vital role of culture and the arts in democratic,
11 pluralistic and inclusive nation-building;
- 12 c) Nurture, promote and sustain Filipino cultural and artistic
13 diversity that mirrors and shapes Philippine economic, social
14 and political life;
- 15 d) Advance art as a form of expression and understanding and a
16 force for achieving creative breakthroughs;
- 17 e) Evolve, promote and conserve Filipino national art and culture
18 that mirrors and shapes Philippine economic, social and
19 political life; and,
20 f) Promote and disseminate to the greatest number of people the
21 talent and ingenuity of our artists.
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25 **SECTION 3. Philippine Participation in the International**
26 **Exhibitions of the Venice Biennale.** – The country shall endeavor to
27 participate yearly in the international exhibitions of the Venice Biennale
28 held in Venice, Italy.
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1 **SECTION 4. Philippine Arts in Venice Biennale Coordinating**
2 **Committee.** – The Philippine Arts in Venice Biennale Coordinating
3 Committee (PAVB-CC) is hereby created to oversee the country’s
4 participation every year in the Venice Biennale exhibitions in Venice,
5 Italy. It shall act as coordinator and commissioner for the Philippine
6 Pavilion in the Biennale exhibitions, and lead in the following activities:

- 7 (a) Manage the selection process for curatorial proposals;
8 (b) Coordinate the timely installation of the Philippine Pavilion in
9 Venice and of the homecoming exhibition; and
10 (c) Such other activities that may be necessary for the execution of
11 its mandate.

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13 The PAVB-CC shall be lodged in the National Commission for
14 Culture and the Arts (NCCA). The Department of Foreign Affairs shall
15 provide administrative support through its foreign posts.

16
17 **SECTION 5. Homecoming** – All Philippine Pavilion exhibitions
18 shall be installed and mounted in appropriate government facilities and
19 exhibition spaces for at least one year for the viewing and appreciation of
20 the general public.

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22 **SECTION 6. Appropriation** – Implementation of this Act in its
23 initial year shall be funded through the annual appropriations of the
24 NCCA. Thereafter, funding shall be provided for in the annual General
25 Appropriations Act.

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27 **SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations** – Within sixty
28 (60) days from the date of effectivity of this Act, the NCCA shall formulate
29 the rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

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31 **SECTION 8. Separability Clause** – If any provision of this Act is
32 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by
33 such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

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35 **SECTION 9. Repealing Clause** – All laws, executive and
36 administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the
37 foregoing provisions are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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39 **SECTION 10. Effectivity Clause** – This Act shall take effect fifteen
40 (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2)
41 newspapers of general circulation.

42
43 *Approved,*