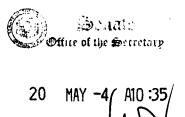
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES *First Regular Session* 



## S E N A T E P.S. Res. No. <u>378</u>

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Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

## RESOLUTION

## DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REVITALIZATION OF THE CULTURAL AND CREATIVES INDUSTRY IN THE NEW NORMAL

1 WHEREAS, on 9 March, through Proclamation No. 922, President Rodrigo 2 Duterte declared a state of public health emergency after the Department of Health 3 confirmed local transmission of COVID-19 in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, on March 17, President Duterte placed the entire island of Luzon under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in an effort to prevent further contagion and reduce the rate of infection;

WHEREAS, the ECQ brought about by the pandemic caused the suspension,
cancellation, and/or postponement of tapings of motion pictures, tv shows and other
programs, staged performances, concerts, gigs, workshops and art classes;

WHEREAS, workers in the cultural and creatives industry were among those displaced by the ECQ as most of them are under a no work-no pay scheme and have no option to work from home;

WHEREAS, 2017 Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) data listed the P7.22billion-worth motion picture, video, and television program sector as composed of 170 establishments and employs 4,606 individuals, while the creative, arts, and entertainment sector provides work for 2,012 individuals;

WHEREAS, the 2017 data from the PSA further showed that the average monthly income of freelancers, audio-visual workers, film crews, technicians, and other support staff in the movie and television sector is around P32,500, while artists,

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sculptors, painters, writers, stage managers, set carpenters and other staff in the arts
sector which includes theater and orchestra earn an average of P12,495 per month;

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WHEREAS, #CreativeAidPH, a survey conducted by the Nayong Pilipino Foundation revealed that COVID-19 caused the in the creative, arts, and entertainment sector a mean income loss of P98,209 per worker since January, and an average projected income loss of P171,050 per worker in the coming months;

WHEREAS, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts' (NCCA) rolled out
a one-time NCCA-DOLE TUPAD Assistance Program from its P4-million quick response
fund which gave P5,000 each to 1,000 artists and cultural workers but was criticized
to be "demeaning, unrealistic in its deadlines, and problematic in its process of
consultation and implementation"<sup>1</sup>;

WHEREAS, the NCCA approved a supplemental P63.8 million budget for an 12 assistance fund for arts and culture workers which will have a P6.4 million component 13 for a cash assistance program for an additional 1,250 beneficiaries from the NCCA-14 TUPAD registry, and those endorsed by the Artists Welfare of the Philippines, Inc. and 15 Film Academy of the Philippines, and a P57.4 million component which will be allocated 16 for committee-driven grants, subsidy programs, or online projects and activities 17 relevant to each committee's mandate and/or an option to continue with the cash 18 assistance program which provides a maximum of P5,000 (net of tax) to artists and 19 20 cultural workers<sup>2</sup>;

WHEREAS, the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) also rolled out the DEAR Action! Program, which aims to provide a one-time financial assistance of P8,000 to low-income audio-visual content workers such as on-camera performers, production staff, and technical crews who are not recipients of other assistance from the government and who lost at least five work days or five projects due to the declaration of ECQ;

WHEREAS, significant government assistance to the industry and its workers should be provided to help the displaced workers tide over the no-work, no-pay period

<sup>2</sup> https://www.bworldonline.com/ncca-provides-p63-8-m-pandemic-fund-for-artists/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>https://www.interaksyon.com/trends-spotlights/2020/04/21/166766/ncca-urged-give-aid-and-relief-filipino-creatives-amid-covid-19-quarantine/</u>

and to be able to restart and revitalize the creative and arts industry in the post-1 2 pandemic era;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to facilitate the revival of the cultural and creative 3 industry not only for its economic contribution but also for its role in the revitalization 4 of the nation's psyche as the country tries to recover from a pandemic; 5

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WHEREAS, the cultural and creatives industry must be included in any economic stimulus program or package to be granted by the government commensurate with 7 the industry's average economic contribution; 8

WHEREAS, The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), in coordination 9 with the NCAA, FDCP, the Directors' Guild of the Philippines, Inc., and other 10 organizations of workers in the creatives and cultural industry, should craft guidelines 11 on how to go about creating and staging cultural and creative outputs and other 12 performances while adhering to social distancing and health protocols; 13

WHEREAS, artists should also be assisted by the government to transition to 14 possible alternative careers should they want to, such as, but not limited to, being 15 mentors to tutorial or remedial art classes integrated with the Department of Education 16 (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) curricula, and serving as 17 trainers in skills development programs and ladderized education under Technical 18 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and in coordination with the 19 20 NCCA;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, 21 to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the revitalization of the cultural and 22 23 creatives industry in the New Normal.

Adopted,

GRACE POE

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