


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

'22 AUG -9 P5 :42

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

S. No. 1115

---

Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

---

AN ACT  
CREATING THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FILIPINO WOMEN AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Some freedom and privileges women enjoy today are brought by the victories from long and arduous struggles that the women from generations before us had fought for.

Filipino women were only granted the right to suffrage in 1937 as a result of the relentless campaign for suffrage by Purificacion "Pura Kalaw" Garcia Villanueva and women groups.<sup>1</sup> And ever since Geronima Pecson was elected as the first Filipino woman to become Senator in 1947, women's fight for rights and equality has continuously been promoted in the legislature.

For decades, the women's movement worked to address the narrow definition of rape under the law, which was defined as a crime against chastity and not as a crime against persons. Such definition hindered effective prosecution of the crime and burdened the victims thereof. It was only in 1997 that rape was changed from a crime

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://asiafoundation.org/2012/03/07/early-feminism-in-the-philippines/>

against chastity to a crime against persons, all due to women groups who fiercely sought social change.

While the fight is far from over as many Filipino women still face inequality and oppression in various forms, it is just right to commemorate the bravery of Filipino women who fearlessly fought for all other women to be granted participation in shaping the nation and to enjoy privileges on equal footing with men.

In this regard, this bill seeks to acknowledge the remarkable contributions of women to economic progress and nation-building; to celebrate women whose various individual and collective actions significantly advanced the national effort to conquer inequality, discrimination, and deprivation; to raise awareness and build an appreciation of history and the role that women have played in its making; to honor the heroism of women who played a significant role in the national struggle against colonialism and foreign invasion; to acknowledge the suffering borne by women who were coerced into sexual slavery during World War II and support their call for reparation and justice; and to honor individual women, including women and girls with disabilities, whose specific achievements have caused a positive impact on and enriched all aspects of Filipino life.


To carry out the above policy, this bill seeks to establish a National Museum of Filipino Women under the administration and supervision of the Philippine Commission on Women.

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

  
LOREN LEGARDA

'22 AUG -9 P5 :42

SENATE  
S. No. 1115

RECEIVED BY: 

---

Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

---

AN ACT  
CREATING THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FILIPINO WOMEN AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

- 1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "National Museum  
2 of Filipino Women Act."
- 3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:
- 4 a. Acknowledge the remarkable contributions of women to economic progress  
5 and nation building and the preservation and promotion of the Filipino way of  
6 life;
- 7 b. Celebrate women whose various individual and collective actions significantly  
8 advanced the national effort to conquer inequality, discrimination, and  
9 deprivation;
- 10 c. Raise awareness and build an appreciation of history and the role that women  
11 have played in its making;
- 12 d. Honor the heroism of women who played a significant role in the national  
13 struggle against colonialism and foreign invasion;
- 14 e. Commemorate modern-day heroines and women martyrs who struggled  
15 against injustice, oppression, and exploitation, especially during the Martial  
16 Law era in the Philippines;

1 f. Acknowledge the suffering borne by women who were coerced into sexual  
2 slavery during World War II and support their call for reparation and justice;  
3 and

4 g. Honor individual women, including women and girls with disabilities, whose  
5 specific achievements have caused a positive impact on and enriched all  
6 aspects of Filipino life.

7 Sec. 3. *Creation.* – To carry out the above policy, the National Museum of Filipino  
8 Women is hereby created and established under the administration and supervision of  
9 the Philippine Commission on Women.

10 Sec. 4. *Organization, Operation, and Administration.* – The Philippine Commission  
11 on Women shall, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management,  
12 determine the organizational structure and operational requirements of the National  
13 Museum of Filipino Women, and ensure that consultative mechanisms are integrated into  
14 its institutional planning and development.

15 Sec. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days after the  
16 approval of this Act, the Philippine Commission on Women shall, in consultation with  
17 the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, National Museum of the Philippines,  
18 National Historical Commission of the Philippines, Commission on Human Rights,  
19 Commission on Higher Education, Department of Education and at least three (3)  
20 women’s and civil society organizations, formulate rules and regulations as may be  
21 necessary for its proper implementation.

22 Sec. 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the immediate implementation  
23 of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

24 Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, a provision or section of this Act is  
25 declared invalid or unconstitutional, other sections or provisions not affected thereby  
26 shall remain in full force and effect.

27 Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules  
28 and regulations, and other issuance or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of  
29 this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

1           Sec. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its 2 publication  
2 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,