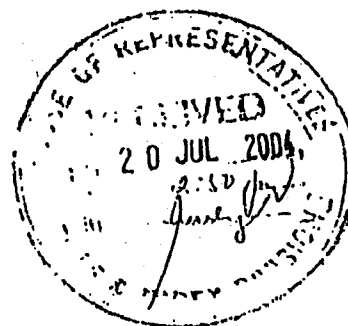


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1531



Introduced by Honorable Raul T. Gonzalez Jr.

Explanatory Note

Books are instrumental in the citizenry's intellectual, technical and cultural development. Books are the most effective and economical tools for achieving educational growth, imparting information and recording, preserving, and disseminating the nation's cultural heritage.

Most of the books in our libraries and bookstores are not local publications. The Philippines has the lowest output in terms of book titles compared to our neighbors in Southeast Asia. Furthermore, authors based in the National Capital Region, where most of the big publishers are also based, write most of the local books.

There are surely many talented authors and writers in other regions of other country. They can put in writing their knowledge and local histories. Some of them can write 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 they are preoccupied with earning a living for themselves and their loved ones.

This proposed measure 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. This bill seeks to create 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 bring us closer to the day every region and province has enough good authors who get published, and every region has dynamic book trade with the other regions.

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

Raul T. Gonzalez Jr.
RAUL T. GONZALEZ, JR.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 1531

Introduced by Honorable Raul T. Gonzalez Jr.

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.

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

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

Section 3. The National Book Development Trust Fund – A National Book Development Trust Fund is hereby established exclusively for the support and promotion of Filipino authorship especially in science and technology and in subject areas wherein locally authored books are either few or non-existent.

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

(1) The amount of fifty million pesos (P50,000,000.00) shall be taken from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) fund at Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00) per month for ten (10) months.

(2) Another amount of fifty million pesos (50,000,000.00) shall be taken from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) at Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00) per month for ten (10) months.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(I) The NBDB shall prepare the implementing guidelines and decision - making mechanisms, subject to the following:

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

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

(3) There shall be an external auditor to perform an annual audit of the Fund's performance;

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

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

Section 5. *Saving Clause.* All laws, rules, regulations, other issuances or parts which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby replaced or modified accordingly.

Section 6. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

APPROVED,