

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 4726

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Introduced by **HON. ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

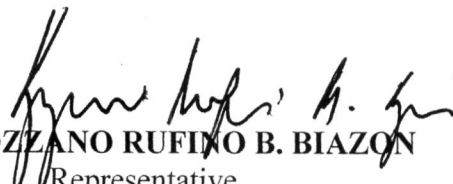
The Constitution unequivocally recognizes the importance of our national culture and heritage in Article II Section 17 thereof: "The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts culture and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress and promote total human liberation and development."

Republic Act No. 8492, "An Act Establishing a National Museum, Providing for its Permanent Home and Other Purposes" created the National Museum to give flesh to this principle. However, despite the budget it receives from the National Government, and the Museum Endowment Fund that was established by virtue of Sec. 32 of the law, to be used for its special programs, projects and activities, the National Museum suffers from severe lack of funds that hampers it from delivering fully on its mandate. The PAGCOR and PCSO have been lagging in their compliance as the main and only contributors to this Fund.

Thus, it is not surprising that with an insufficient budget, the basic essentials for a museum such as water, light, security, and even insurance sometimes go unpaid or unavailed. This is very sad and unfortunate because our national heritage is priceless and the artifacts and other treasures safeguarded by the museum should not deteriorate for such reasons.

I am therefore proposing the creation of a National Museum Legislative Endowment Fund to address the financial problems of the museum, that may bring on even worse, irreparable damage in the future. Such consequences are horrifying to just think of.

With the noble objective embodied in this bill, this author hopes that his fellow legislators will proffer their support for its enactment. The gains from this endeavor will benefit not only a few, but in fact every one with Filipino blood running in their veins. As such, failure will mean a loss to every lawmaker's constituents, especially those who have not acted on this exhortation.

  
**ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON**  
Representative  
Lone District, Muntinlupa City

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**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL MUSEUM  
LEGISLATIVE ENDOWMENT FUND**

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

Section 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the National Museum Legislative Endowment Fund Act of 2005.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to foster nationalism through the promotion of our national heritage.

Section 3. National Museum Legislative Endowment Fund. – A National Museum Legislative Endowment Fund is hereby established to be used exclusively for the operations and maintenance of the National Museum.

Section 4. Appropriations. – For this purpose, one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) from the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) of each Congressmen and three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00) from the Priority Development Assistance Fund of each Senator shall be annually and automatically provided for the National Museum Legislative Endowment Fund.

Section 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Department of Budget and Management, Committee on Accounts of the House of Representatives, and Committee on Finance of the Senate shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act, within 60 days from its effectivity.

Section 6. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.