

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. **1477**

Introduced by GABRIELA Women's Party List
Representatives LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN and EMERENCIANA "EMMI" A. DE JESUS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Filipino women have played leading and supportive roles in the Filipinos' historic struggles for liberation, justice, peace and prosperity.

Gabriela Silang, Tandang Sora, Teresa Magbanua and Trinidad Tecson fought against colonialism and foreign invasion. There too were the women who started organizing at the turn of the century: Logia de Adopción, a masonic lodge of Filipino women in 1893; Asociación de Damas de la Cruz Roja [Women's Red Cross Association] and the Association of Ilonga Feminists led by Pura Villanueva Kalaw, which started the nationwide campaign for women's suffrage in 1912.

The suffragettes' campaigns took the form of lobbying government officials, holding rallies and conferences. Their efforts resulted in the passage of the suffrage bill in the Philippine Legislature in 1933, implementation of the Administrative Code which allowed women to vote in 1935, and the ratification of women's suffrage rights in a national plebiscite in 1937.

In the Martial Law years, activists like Lilia Hilao, Jessica Sales, Lorena Barros and Puri Pedro sacrificed their lives for nationalism and democracy.

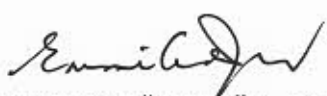
Yet no national institution is dedicated to the heritage, heroism and martyrdom of Filipino women. Women's historic contributions to Philippine civilization, nation and people should not go unvalued and unnoted leaving a gap in our country's historical record.

Further, knowledge of Filipino women's heritage and heroism is crucial in developing people's appreciation and respect for women and girls that should eventually help eliminate discrimination, oppression and violence against females of all ages.

A National Filipino Women's Museum is needed to commemorate Filipino women's heroism and martyrdom and profile the specific achievements that women - individually and collectively - have made in all aspects of Philippine society.

The approval of this bill is earnestly and urgently sought.


LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN
Gabriela Women's Party List


EMERENCIANA "EMMI" A. DE JESUS
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AN ACT
TO CREATE A NATIONAL WOMEN'S MUSEUM, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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 Filipino Women's Museum Act of 2003."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

- 2.1 Recognize women's historic contributions to the Filipinos' development as a nation and people
- 2.2 Celebrate women whose various individual and collective actions have caused to dramatically and significantly advance Filipino women's fight against inequality, discrimination and deprivation
- 2.3 Honor women's role and heroism in the Filipinos' liberation from foreign invasion and occupation of the Spanish, American and Japanese
- 2.4 Honor individual women whose specific achievements have enriched and impacted on any and all aspects of Filipino life
- 2.5 Commemorate modern-day women heroines and martyrs who struggled against injustice, oppression and exploitation specially during Martial Law.

SECTION 3. *Creation of the National Filipino Women's Museum.* - To carry out the above policy, the National Filipino Women's Museum, hereinafter referred to as the Women's Museum, is hereby created and established.

SECTION 4. *Organization, Operation and Administration.* - The organization, operation and administration of the National Filipino Women's Museum shall follow the general and standard structures, management and operations established, mandated and practiced by the National Commission of Culture and Arts (NCCA) and other appropriate agencies.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The NCCA shall formulate, within thirty (30) days from its effectivity, the rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

SECTION 6. *Appropriations.* - There are authorized to be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act such sums as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuance or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* - If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation which ever comes earlier.

Approved,