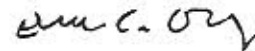


Stella Marquez-Araneta, head of the BPCI, has issued a statement saying that she lauds Filipino fashion designers. But it was too late since the mistake had come to pass.

It is logical that competitors do their very best not just to win, but to show the world what they are made of. What is the point when we cannot represent our true worth and ingenuity even in the simplest of things such as clothes? It hurts not only our Filipino fashion designers but also us Filipinos.

It must be emphasized that a Philippine design, whatever the product may be, should be used by Filipino participants in all international beauty contests. A costume design to be showcased by our representative in international beauty pageants should be reflective of the cultural essence of our country and our Filipino designers should create a costume design that promotes Filipino identity and nationality. With that, the audience or judges in international beauty contests can easily tell whether the work is genuinely Filipino or not. In any international contest, most especially international beauty pageants, nationality and design should always reflect our country's expression of excellence and ingenuity and it is for this reason that our Filipino fashion designers, who are experts in their fields, should be the entrusted designers for our Filipino contestants in international beauty pageants.

It is only for this reason that the approval of this bill is being sought.



ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **5691**

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

**AN ACT MANDATING FILIPINO BEAUTY PAGEANT
CONTESTANTS IN INTERNATIONAL BEAUTY PAGEANT
COMPETITIONS TO WEAR OR USE COSTUMES DESIGNED OR
CREATED BY FILIPINO FASHION DESIGNERS**

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the Filipino Fashion Designers for Filipino Beauty Pageants Contestants Act of 2015.

Section 2. Coverage. This Act shall apply to all Filipino beauty pageant contestants or participants representing the Philippines in any international beauty pageant competition including their handlers, sponsors, organizers and franchise holders.

Section 3. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to preserve and enrich Filipino national culture. The State recognizes the importance to protect the national culture because this constitutes the cultural treasure of the nation. It is also the policy of the state to encourage and support researchers and studies on the arts and culture.

Section 4. Objectives. The objectives of this Act are as follows:

- a.) To promulgate the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) as the primary commission to regulate fashion designers for beauty pageants and other fashion design competitions in which the Philippines is participating;
- b.) To facilitate greater coordination among fashion designers in the country with the help of the NCCA; and
- c.) To require local franchise holders and other institutions of beauty pageants to standardize the recruitment of fashion designers to be strictly Filipino.

Section 5. Costumes designed by Filipino designers – Every Filipino beauty pageant contestant or participant shall wear or use garments, dresses or costumes designed or created by Filipino fashion designers. Garments, Dresses or Costumes which are representative of Filipino culture, identity and nationality shall at all times be the default fashion design for every Filipino beauty pageant contestant in any international beauty pageant competition. Filipino fashion designers must at all times be involved in the designing of garments, dresses and costumes for Filipino beauty pageant contestants.

Section 6. Assistance of Foreign Fashion Designers – Foreign Fashion Designers may assist Filipino fashion designers in the creation of garments, dresses or costumes of Filipino Beauty Contestants in international beauty pageant contests provided that the fashion designers creating the dresses or costumes of Filipino beauty contestants are working as a team, provided further that the team is headed by a Filipino fashion designer.

A foreign fashion designer may assist a Filipino Fashion Designer only in the following:

- a. overseeing workers in the drawing and cutting of patterns and examining of samples or finished garments;
- b. sketching rough and detailed drawings of apparel or accessories, and writing specifications such as color schemes, construction, material types and accessory requirements pursuant to the instructions of the Filipino designer;

c. selection of materials to be used for the finished products to conform to factors such as age, gender and physical status of the Filipino contestants; and

d. such other works that may be assigned to the Foreign fashion designer by the Filipino designer.

Section 7. Recruitment of Filipino Designers – All local franchise holders, sponsors, handlers, organizers and other institutions of beauty pageants shall be required to recruit or have a pool of Filipino fashion designers who could immediately be engaged, hired or tapped in any international beauty pageant competitions.

Section 8. Sanctions. Any franchise holder, handler, organizer and sponsor whether a corporate institution or individual who or which grossly violates any of the provisions stated in this Act shall be meted with a fine of P100,000.00 or imprisonment of six (6) months or both at the discretion of the court. If the offender is a corporation, the penalty of imprisonment shall be applied to the members of the Board of Directors, President and Manager.

Section 9. Period of Compliance. All local franchise holders, handlers, organizers or sponsors and other institutions for beauty pageants shall comply with the requirements and provisions of this Act within three (3) months from the effectivity of this Act.

Section 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) in coordination with the Office the President shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations to carry out the provisions of the Act. Such rules and regulations shall take effect upon their publication in three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

Section 11. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, letters of instructions, executive orders, rules and regulations insofar as they are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or amended as the case may be.

Section 12. Separability Clause. – In the event that any provision of this act or any portion thereof is declared unconstitutional by a competent court, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby and shall remain valid and enforceable.

Section 13. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect after its complete publication in at least three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.