

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

17th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4885



Introduced by: HON. JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There is an urgent need for us to ensure the preservation of our cultural heritage otherwise the future generations will not know their Filipino identity that makes them distinct from citizens of other nations. The current situation is not encouraging. The present generation is getting confused as to its Filipino identity since modern technology has brought into our daily lives different traditions, practices and beliefs that we mistakenly assumed to be our very own but in fact belong to other countries.

Cultural heritage is important because it helps people connect with others who have similar backgrounds and provides a sense of unity and belonging. This is the reason why we know who are our fellow Filipinos even when we are abroad. Cultural heritage is made up of many things large and small. We can see it in the buildings, townscapes, and even in archaeological remains. Culture can be perceived through natural sources as well: the agriculture and landscapes associated with it. It is preserved through books, artifacts, objects, pictures, photographs, art, and oral tradition. Cultural heritage is in the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the religions we follow, and the skills we learn. Sometimes we can touch and see what makes up a culture; other times it is intangible.

Preservation of our cultural heritage is the main reason why Republic Act No. 8492, otherwise known as the National Museum Act of 1998, was passed into law. However, the said law failed to include traditional folk arts in the identification, collection and preservation of our cultural heritage. Folk Art is defined as "Art originating among the common people of a nation or region and usually reflecting their traditional culture, especially everyday or festive items produced or decorated by unschooled artists."

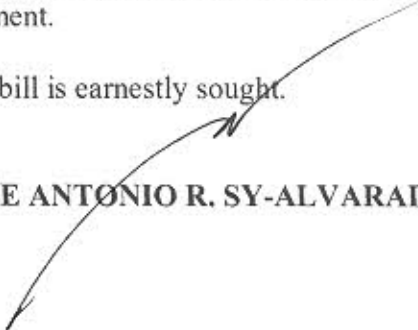
Our country has many regions and within each region are different groups with different traditions, practices and beliefs. In short, we have a very diverse society and in order to preserve the regional differences, there is a need to include folk arts in the identification, collection and preservation of our cultural heritage. This should be done in the regional or local level as far as practicable, and under the supervision of the National Museum as provided for by RA No. 8942.

As such, there is a need to amend Section 16 of RA No. 8942 to include traditional folk arts in the identification, collection and preservation of our cultural heritage. Furthermore, the

additional duties, responsibility in funding as well as the supervision by the National Museum of the regional museums are included in the amendment.

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

JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO





SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H.B. No. 4885

Introduced by Hon. Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado

AN ACT PRESERVING THE COUNTRY'S TRADITIONAL FOLK ARTS AS PART OF ITS INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8492, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL MUSEUM ACT OF 1998" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1.**Section 16 of Republic Act No. 8492, otherwise known as the
2 "National Museum Act of 1998" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 "Section 16. Supervision over regional museums. – Museum branches with ten
4 (10) or more personnel and/or high property accountability or cultural value
5 shall be upgraded to regional museums upon recommendation of the Director
6 of the Museum. The Director of Museum, through the Assistant Director, shall
7 have full supervision over regional museums and their personnel. The regional
8 museums shall serve as information and cultural centers offering
9 comprehensive and substantial collection of local archaeological finds, objects
10 of art, **TRADITIONAL FOLK ARTS** and other local cultural treasures.

11 **MOREOVER, THESE REGIONAL MUSEUMS, IN COORDINATION WITH THE**
12 **NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS (NCCA) SHALL**
13 **SPEARHEAD THE CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF**
14 **THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE SCHOOLS OF LIVING TRADITION**
15 **FOUND WITHIN THEIR LOCALITIES.**

16 **LASTLY, THE NATIONAL MUSEUM MAY FACILITATE THE CREATION OF**
17 **SEPARATE TRADITIONAL FOLK ARTS MUSEUMS IN SELECT PROVINCES,**
18 **PROVIDED, THAT THESE PROVINCES SHALL BEAR THE FUNDING FOR**
19 **THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE OF SUCH FACILITIES WITH**
20 **PERSONNEL FROM THE NATIONAL MUSEUM ACTING AS PART OF**
21 **ADVISORY PANEL TO ASSIST IN THEIR MANAGEMENT.**

22 **SECTION 2.** – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared
23 as unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof
24 shallnotbe affected thereby.

25 **SECTION 3.** Repealing Clause. – All laws, ordinances, rules and regulations
26 and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are
27 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

28 **SECTION 4.** Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
29 following its complete publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of
30 general circulation.

31 Approved,

