

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7958



Introduced by Representative Ramon "Red" H. Durano VI

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution mandates the State to foster the preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of a Filipino national culture based on the principle of unity in diversity in a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression.

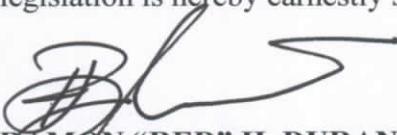
This bill proposes to institutionalize the country's participation in the international exhibitions of the *Venice Biennale* to encourage the Filipino artists to exhibit their expertise and crafts and to promote as well the relevance of arts in nation building.

Since the holding of its first edition in 1895, the Venice Art Biennale remains as the oldest and most prestigious international contemporary art exhibition. The Philippines first participated in the Venice Biennale in 1964 during the 32nd Venice Art Biennale through the initiatives of the Art Association of the Philippines, where the works of painter Jose Joya and sculptor Napoleon Abueva were exhibited. Since then, the Philippines had significant participations, as follows:

- a. the 2015 *Venice Art Biennale* with the critically acclaimed exhibit "*Tie A String Around the World*," curated by Dr. Patrick Flores and featuring the digitally restored "*Genghis Khan*" film by the late national artists Manuel Conde and Carlos Francisco, multi-channel video "*A Dashed State*" by Many Montelibano, and the massive installation "*Shoal*" by Jose Tence Ruiz;
- b. in its inaugural participation in the 2016 *Venice Architecture Biennale*, the Philippine Pavilion presented "*Muhon: Traces of an Adolescent City*", curated by Leandro Locsin, Jr., Sudarshan Khadka, Jr., and Juan Paolo dela Cruz of the Leandro V. Locsin Partners (LVLP); and
- c. the 2017 *Venice Art Biennale* featuring the curatorial concept of Joselina Cruz titled "*The Spectre of Comparison*," which featured artists Lani Maestro and Manuel Ocampo.

Institutionalizing the country's participation in the international exhibitions of the *Venice Biennale* through the passage of a law will ensure the continuous support for the development of Philippine arts and culture.

In view thereof, approval of this significant piece of legislation is hereby earnestly sought.


RAMON "RED" H. DURANO VI
Representative
5th District, Cebu

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AN ACT
STITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE PARTICIPATION IN THE
INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS OF THE VENICE BIENNALE IN VENICE,
ITALY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*Philippine Arts in*
2 *Venice Biennale Act.*”
3

4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:
5

- 6 a. recognize the important role of arts in fostering patriotism and nationalism and
7 promoting human liberation and development;
8
9 b. recognize the vital role of culture and the arts in democratic, pluralistic, and
10 inclusive nation-building;
11
12 c. nurture, promote, and sustain Filipino cultural and artistic diversity that mirrors
13 and shapes Philippine economic, social and political life;
14
15 d. advance art as a form of expression and understanding and a force for achieving
16 creative breakthroughs;
17
18 e. evolve, promote, and conserve Filipino national art and culture that mirrors and
19 shapes Philippine economic, social, and political life; and
20
21 f. promote and disseminate to the greatest number of people the talent and
22 ingenuity of our artists.
23

24 **SEC. 3. *Philippine Participation to the Venice Biennale.*** – The regular
25 participation of the Philippines in the international exhibitions of the Venice Biennale in
26 Venice, Italy is hereby institutionalized.
27

28 **SEC. 4. *Philippine Arts in Venice Biennale Coordinating Committee.*** – The
29 Philippine Arts in Venice Biennale Coordinating Committee (PAVB-CC) shall be created to

1 oversee the country's participation in the Venice Biennale exhibitions in Venice, Italy. It
2 shall act as coordinator and commissioner for the Philippine Pavilion in the Biennale
3 exhibitions.

4
5 The PAVB-CC shall lead in the following activities:

- 6
7 a. manage the selection process for curatorial proposals;
8
9 b. coordinate the timely installation of the Philippine Pavilion in Venice and of the
10 homecoming exhibition; and
11
12 c. perform such other activities that may be necessary for the execution of its
13 mandate.

14
15 The PAVB-CC shall be under the administration and supervision of the NCCA. For
16 its part, the Department of Foreign Affairs shall, through its foreign posts, provide
17 administrative support to the PAVB-CC.

18
19 **SEC. 5. *Homecoming.*** – The Philippine Pavilion exhibitions shall be installed and
20 mounted in appropriate government facilities and exhibition spaces for at least one (1) year
21 for the viewing and appreciation of the general public.

22
23 **SEC. 6. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to cover the implementation of
24 this Act shall be included in the budget of the NCCA in the annual General Appropriations
25 Act.

26
27 **SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the
28 approval of this Act, the NCCA, in consultation with the concerned stakeholders, shall
29 formulate the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act.

30
31 **SEC. 8. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
32 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

33
34 Approved,