

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1527



Introduced by Representative Roman T. Romulo

AN ACT

INSTITUTING THE CHARTER OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE PHILIPPINES, DEFINING ITS OBJECTIVES, POWERS, AND FUNCTIONS, REPEALING FOR THIS PURPOSE ACT NOS. 222, 1849, 1935, 2572, 3477, EXECUTIVE ORDER 94, and REPUBLIC ACT NOS. 3873, and 10087

Explanatory Note

It is stated in our Constitution that the arts and letters shall enjoy the patronage of the State. Towards this end, the State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations. The State shall also promote the moral and intellectual well-being of the people; elevate the literacy level of every Filipino; and recognize the vital role of knowledge and information in nation-building.

In this light, this bill seeks to establish the Charter of the National Library of the Philippines. The National Library of the Philippines, as it is known today, dates back to August 12, 1887, where its precursor, the Museo-Biblioteca de Filipinas, was established through a royal decree. Throughout the decades, it has been operating without an original charter. Various laws were enacted which only touched upon the nomenclature of the National Library. Evidently, there exists a need for the enactment of a law which will define the functions and structure of the National Library of the Philippines to be able to serve the demands of our rich history and our people.

The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) define a public library as "*an organization established, supported and funded by the community, either through local, regional or national government or through some other form of community organization. It provides access to knowledge, information and works of the imagination through a range of resources and services and is equally available to all members of the community regardless of race, nationality, age, gender, religion, language, disability, economic, employment status and educational attainment*" (Gill, 2001). It exists to serve communities. It is a "*democratic*

equalizer, open to all and providing access to information that helps people improve their individual, family, and community lives (Scott, 2011).” In many jurisdictions, public library services contribute to youth development, community health, agriculture, and community and economic well-being. Aptly put, the IFLA UNESCO Public Manifesto says: *“The public library, the local gateway to knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of the individual and social groups”* (Elbert and Atuti, 2011).

The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) is the official repository of the printed and recorded cultural heritage of the country and other intellectual, literary, and information sources. It is only right that the State endeavors to continuously develop and enhance its library facilities, relevant library resources, and dynamic services that contribute to the intellectual, social, and cultural development of the Filipino society.

This bill effectively addresses the realities that have plagued the NLP for decades such as the small fund allocation for public libraries, the lack of public librarians, lack of infrastructures and facilities, as well as learning resources. This representation believes that the development of the NLP, as an integral institution for lifelong learning, as well as the 1,455 public libraries it currently assists and the 40,000 public libraries which are yet to be established and affiliated with the NLP, are intricately linked to the economic, social, and educational development of our country.¹ Through this measure, we are assured that our libraries will not merely build collections or services. Rather, the libraries that we will establish will effectively build communities. Our support only serves to benefit the millions of Filipinos across the country.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of the proposed measure is earnestly requested.



ROMAN T. ROMULO

Lone District, Pasig City

¹ Status of Philippine Public Libraries & Librarianship. 2018

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1849, 1935, 2572, 3477, EXECUTIVE ORDER 94, and REPUBLIC ACT NOS. 3873, and 10087

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

1 SEC. 1. **Short Title** - This Act shall be known as the "**THE CHARTER OF THE NATIONAL**
2 **LIBRARY OF THE PHILIPPINES.**"

3
4
5 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared a policy of the State that the arts
6 and letters shall enjoy the patronage of the State. The State shall conserve, promote, and
7 popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic
8 creations. The State shall also promote the moral and intellectual well-being of the people:
9 elevate the literacy level of every Filipino; and recognize the vital role of knowledge and
10 information in nation-building.

11
12 Towards this end, the State shall establish The National Library of the Philippines as
13 the official repository of the printed and recorded cultural heritage of the country and other
14 intellectual, literary, and information sources. The State shall endeavor to continuously
15 develop and enhance its library facilities, relevant library resources, and dynamic services
16 that contribute to the intellectual, social, and cultural development of the Filipino society.

17
18 The National Library of the Philippines shall also manage, maintain, and support the
19 provincial, city, and municipal libraries, as well as the barangay reading centers, as provided
20 in this Act.

21
22

1 SEC. 3. ***Establishment of a National Library of the Philippines.*** - There is hereby
2 established a National Library of the Philippines (NLP). The NLP shall be the repository of the
3 printed and recorded cultural heritage of the country and other intellectual literary and
4 information sources. It shall continue to provide access to these resources for our people's
5 intellectual growth, citizenship building, life-long learning, and enlightenment.
6

7 It shall be an affiliated cultural agency of the National Commission for Culture and the
8 Arts (NCCA) and attached to the Office of the President for Budgetary purposes.
9

10
11 SEC. 4. ***Purposes and Objectives of the NLP.*** - The NLP shall have the following purposes
12 and objectives:
13

- 14 (a) To acquire, and preserve books, papers, documents, and periodicals of every kind or
15 class as well as Filipiniana Materials through various methods of acquisitions such as
16 purchase, donations, bequests, transfers of property, money, or books for the use of
17 NLP;
- 18 (b) To provide for an efficient online access to the different information resources and
19 national bibliographic services of the NLP, and the Philippine eLib;
- 20 (c) To be the lead organization in promoting digital library services online, especially in
21 the field of publishing works online;
- 22 (d) To establish and develop, in cooperation with the local government units, a system
23 of public libraries and information centers throughout the country;
- 24 (e) To promote, establish and maintain national and international standards in library
25 and information services;
- 26 (f) To conduct continuing research on Philippine Librarianship;
- 27 (g) To conduct training and assessment of the basics and standards of library practice
28 such as the maintenance of accession records and list of collections;
- 29 (h) To promote and collaborate with the Commission on Higher Education to include
30 programs in library science and related courses to ensure the increase in number of
31 course takers who can be fielded or employed in public libraries.
- 32 (i) To undertake related cultural activities under the provisions of Republic Act No.
33 10066, or the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009, which states that "*the National*
34 *Library of the Philippines shall be responsible for rare and significant contemporary*
35 *Philippine books, manuscripts such as, but not limited to, presidential papers,*
36 *periodicals, newspapers, singly or in collection, and libraries and electronic records*";
- 37 (j) To become an institute of lifelong learning;
- 38 (k) To ensure the continuity of funding for the special tasks carried out in libraries and
39 centralized services;
- 40 (l) To uphold national pride by maintaining and preserving written history on behalf of
41 the government who is responsible for this obligation;
- 42 (m) To collect reasonable fees to those who will avail any of its services, such as entrance
43 fees for the use of its reading rooms, admission fees for its cultural activities, among
44 others; and
- 45 (n) To solicit and/or receive for and on behalf of the government, donations, grants,
46 bequests and the like, in relation to the NLP.
47

1
2 **SEC. 5. *Functions of the NLP*** - The NLP shall have the following functions:

- 3
4 (a) Exercise general supervision over public libraries and develop and minimum
5 standard of operations for all public libraries to follow which shall be the basis for
6 the evaluation of the performance of the public libraries;
7 (b) Provide initial allocation of materials to newly-affiliated public libraries;
8 (c) Continue to supply public libraries with other resources not included in the initial
9 allocation;
10 (d) Invest in the development and introduction of innovative library services; and
11 (e) Perform such other functions that may be provided by law or in pursuant to the
12 purposes and objectives of the NLP.

13
14 **SEC. 6. *Board of Advisers.*** - There shall be constituted a Board of Advisers which shall
15 meet with the Management of the NLP at least twice a year to assist it in aligning its policies
16 and plans with the cultural, political and socioeconomic development needs of the nation and
17 with the demands of world-class resources of information.

18
19 The Board of Advisers shall be composed of the following:

- 20
21 (a) the Chairperson of the NCCA as chairperson;
22 (b) the Secretary of the Department of Education, as co-chairperson;
23 (c) the Chairperson of the Commission of Higher Education
24 (d) the Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology;
25 (e) the Secretary of the Department of Information and Communications
26 Technology;
27 (f) the President of the Philippine Librarian Association, Inc.; and
28 (g) the Commissioner of the NLP

29
30 **SEC. 7. *Management of the NLP.*** - The Management of the NLP shall be composed of
31 three (3) members. The Commissioner and two (2) Deputy Commissioners for Operations and
32 Administration, respectively. The Commissioner and the two (2) Deputy Commissioners shall
33 be appointed by the President of the Philippines for a fixed term of six (6) years. Vacancies in
34 the Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was
35 made.

36
37 The Commissioner must be at least thirty-five (35) years of age and of good moral
38 character, unquestionable integrity and known probity. Furthermore, the Commissioner
39 must have a master's degree, 120 hours of managerial training for the last five years, five
40 years of supervisory experience, Career Service Executive or Career Executive Service
41 eligibility, and the Commissioner must be a licensed librarian and a recognized expert in the
42 field of information and library science. The Commissioner shall enjoy the benefits, privileges
43 and emoluments equivalent to the rank of Undersecretary.

44
45 The Deputy Commissioners must be a licensed librarian and a recognized expert in the
46 field of information and library science. The Deputy Commissioners shall enjoy the benefits,
47 privileges and emoluments equivalent to the rank of Assistant Secretary.

1
2 **SEC. 8. Powers and Functions of the Commissioner.** — The management of the NLP
3 shall be vested in the Commissioner who shall have the following powers and duties:
4

- 5 (a) Serve as Chief Executive Officer of NLP, and directly manage, direct, and supervise its
6 day-to-day operations and internal administration;
7 (b) Sign all agreements and contracts entered into for and in behalf of the NLP, such as,
8 but not limited to, deeds of sale or donation for the acquisition of books and other
9 Filipiniana materials, contracts for consultation services, and memoranda of
10 agreement;
11 (c) Approve and authorize registration and issuance of copyright;
12 (d) Establish policies, standards, and guidelines related to the operation of the NLP and
13 the maintenance of the NLP system;
14 (e) Formulate and implement reasonable rules and regulations;
15 (f) Execute orders and directives from the NLP Board of Advisers;
16 (g) Appoint NLP personnel whose appointments are not vested in the President, and
17 discipline them according to Civil Service Rules;
18 (h) Direct the preparation of annual reports and budget;
19 (i) Represent NLP before any government office; and
20 (j) Exercise such other powers as may be necessary in the performance of his duties and
21 which may be vested in him/her by law, rule or regulation.
22

23 **SEC. 9. Powers and Functions of the Deputy Commissioner.** — The Deputy
24 Commissioners shall assist the Commissioner in the overall management of the NLP and shall
25 have the following functions and duties:
26

- 27 (a) Assist the commissioner in planning, directing, supervising, and coordinating the
28 functions of NLP;
29 (b) Assist in the formulation of policies and program activities of the office;
30 (c) Assist in organizing and directing the program of activities of the office as well as the
31 application procedures and standards;
32 (d) Supervise the preparation of periodic and special reports; and
33 (e) Act for the Commissioner in case of temporary incapacity or absence, subject to the
34 provisions of Section 9 of this Act.
35

36 **SEC. 10. Power to Delegate.** — The Commissioner may, by an instrument in writing,
37 delegate any function under this Act, subject to conditions, limitations or restrictions as may
38 be decided upon, to a person or class of persons who may perform those functions in the
39 same manner and with the same effect as if those functions had been conferred on them
40 under this Act, subject to the provision of Sec. 40, Chapter 8, Book IV of Executive Order No.
41 292.
42

43 **SEC. 11. The Divisions of The NLP.** — The Administration of the NLP shall be divided into
44 12 Subdivisions, each headed by a Division Chief who must be a licensed librarian, as follows:
45

- 46 (a) Readers Services Division (RSD) shall provide information, reference, and research
47 services and resources to library users, and shall maintain reading room services for

- 1 said purpose. It shall maintain and preserve foreign library materials as well as select
2 and recommend which library materials shall be acquired by NLP.
- 3 (b) Copyright Division (CD) shall implement the provisions of Republic Act No. 8293 as
4 amended, otherwise known as the Intellectual Property Code which is a) to receive
5 registration of literary and artistic works and deposit with the NLP and the Supreme
6 Court Library (SCL) for the purpose of completing the records of the NLP under the
7 SCL; b) assign an exclusive license upon registration; c) receive the written instrument
8 which names the person or persons to be charged with the posthumous enforcements
9 of these rights; and, d) the power to determine and collect such fees for the discharge
10 of services under the Act.
- 11 (c) Special Services Division (SSD) shall ensure that the facilities are accessible for all. It
12 shall: a) assist persons with disabilities and senior citizens in accessing various
13 information; b) maintain and organize Braille, LP, and audio tapes; c) transcribe print
14 to Braille and convert reference books to audio tapes; d) prepare guides to collections
15 for persons with disabilities; and e) undertake such other functions as may be
16 necessary to cater to persons with disabilities and senior citizens.
- 17 (d) Technical Services Division (TSD) shall be responsible with the organization of printed
18 materials with regards to its technical aspects, including, but not limited to
19 bibliographic services, cataloguing, and other related services.
- 20 (e) Human Resource Management Division (HRMD) shall be responsible for the selection,
21 hiring, appointment, transfer, promotion, or dismissal of personnel. Such system shall
22 aim to establish professionalism and excellence at all levels of the NLP in accordance
23 with sound principles of management;
- 24 (f) Finance and Administrative Division (FAD) shall implement and execute the policies
25 laid down by the Commissioner relative to the organization, operation, and functions
26 of the library. It shall coordinate the activities of the various divisions with respect to
27 administrative and support services.
- 28 (g) Information Technology Division (ITD) shall be responsible for the effective use of
29 information and communication technology (ICT) geared towards the improvement
30 of delivery of information and mandated services as well as the improvement of the
31 internal business processes of the NLP.
- 32 (h) Public Libraries Division (PLD) shall implement the provisions of this law on the Public
33 Library System, in cooperation with local government units. It shall be the primary
34 liaison of the NLP with all public libraries in the country. It shall monitor and enforce
35 the minimum standards, qualifications, and services as stated in Section 11 of this
36 Charter. It shall conduct training for public librarians and assist in the operation of
37 public libraries.
- 38 (i) Preservation and Conservation Division (PCD) shall be responsible for the conservation
39 of the Library's paper-based special collections through activities including:
40 conservation assessment, treatment, research, and housing; storage materials
41 procurement and testing; environmental monitoring and analysis; exhibition, loan,
42 and digitization evaluation and preparation; collections emergency management and
43 response;
- 44 (j) Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PPMED) shall provide planning
45 standard guidelines for preparing the short, medium, and long term plans of the NLP;
46 integrate central and regional plans for funding and investment proposals; provide a
47 mechanism for monitoring physical and financial accomplishments; coordinate with

different units and offices affiliated with the NLP the conduct of policy studies and review for effective, efficient and economical operations of the Library and generate reports for policy purposes; coordinate the installation and design of the NLP's central and regional management information system that will provide up-to-date information necessary for the management's policy formulation and decision-making functions; and coordinate the NLP's policy, planning, program development and information systems management activities with the appropriate offices of the NCCA to ensure coherence and consistency of the NLP's policies, plans and programs with the Commission's plans and programs.

(k) External Affairs Division (EAD) shall be responsible for ensuring enhanced and more effective engagement of the NLP with the external community, and building partnerships to support the use of the NLP for development.

(l) Public Online Library Division (ELD) shall manage the library's electronic resources: website, databases, e-books, and electronic periodicals. It shall collaborate with the Collection Development Section to evaluate and select new resources. It shall also monitor bibliographic management operations and the development of applications for public use in collaboration with the Information Technology Division.

Each Division Chief must be a licensed librarian and shall be appointed by the Management of the NLP. The Division Chief shall develop and implement plans and programs for the Division. The Division Chief shall also perform the following functions: a) assist in the formulation of library policies, rules and regulations, b) administer library policies and implement rules and regulations to the division, c) submit reports and approve communications, d) issue certifications for legal purposes, and e) perform other duties that may be assigned by the Commissioner from time to time.

SEC. 12. *Public Libraries in Local Government Units.* Public Libraries shall be a permanent institution in the organizational structure of Local Government Units (LGU). Such Public Library Office will function as the public library of the LGU and shall also exercise administrative functions similar to an office.

It shall have the following functions:

(a) To make available to the members of the community reading materials of wide array, including reading materials prescribed by the DepEd, CHed, the NCCA, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) printed or digital materials endemic to the Local Government Units (LGU), national and local newspapers of general circulation and others.

(b) To be used as a venue for audio-visual presentation in the community and other kinds of exhibitions and activities aimed at increasing the literacy rate by government agencies nongovernmental organizations or private entities in the dissemination of information of general interest;

(c) To partner with local libraries and schools; and

(d) To offer such other related services in furtherance of this Act.

SEC. 13. *Establishment of Provincial, City, and Municipal Libraries and Barangay Reading Centers.* - Each province, city, and municipality shall establish provincial, city and

1 municipal public libraries and barangay reading centers except in provinces, cities, or
2 municipalities where there are existing public libraries or in barangays where there are
3 existing reading centers: Provided, That the establishment of such libraries and reading
4 centers shall be based on the development program of the NLP, taking in consideration the
5 latest developments in computer and electronic library technologies, in coordination with the
6 development council of each city or municipality and in the case of the barangay reading
7 centers, in coordination with the respective barangay councils: Provided, Further, That where
8 these public libraries and reading centers already exist, the NLP shall continue to upgrade the
9 facilities thereof with complete standard sets of books, e-books, online research resources
10 and other materials as provided in Sec. 8 of this act as well as the latest electronic library
11 system using computers for storing, cataloguing, and filing of data and materials: Provided,
12 finally, that by the year 2022, all cities and municipalities of the Philippines shall be provided
13 with an electronically operated library system.

14
15 The NLP shall continue to coordinate and organize seminars, workshops and other
16 training for the professional benefit of librarians. The NLP shall strive to improve and maintain
17 the relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency of all libraries in relation to the socio-economic
18 development of their respective communities.

19
20 **SEC. 14. *Period of Establishment of Congressional, City, and Municipal Libraries and***
21 ***Barangay Reading Centers.*** The overall national plan of implementation shall cover initially a
22 period of five (5) years: Congressional districts, cities, and municipalities with no existing
23 public libraries, as well as barangays situated in remote, isolated and rural areas, shall have
24 priority in the allocation of resources centers.

25
26 Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NLP, in
27 consultation with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department
28 of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the DICT and the different local government units,
29 shall come out with the list of priority areas, taking into account the commitment of the local
30 government units in the establishment and maintenance of public libraries and barangay
31 reading

32
33 The NLP shall ensure that all sites for libraries and reading centers shall be equipped
34 with the necessary facilities to fulfill its mandate. It shall provide continuous support and, in
35 coordination with the implementing agencies, further develop and enhance all library
36 facilities, relevant library resources, and dynamic services that contribute to the intellectual,
37 social, and cultural development of the Filipino society.

38
39 **SEC. 15. *National Network of Libraries.*** – The NLP, as the central agency mandated to
40 promote and establish national and international standards in library and information
41 services, shall create a Quality Manual of Libraries of the Philippines which shall contain the
42 minimum standards, qualifications, and services which must be performed by all libraries
43 which will be affiliated, supervised, and supported by the NLP. It shall further create a
44 National Registry of Libraries throughout the country which complies with the minimum
45 standards, qualifications, and services as determined by the NLP for the Congressional, City,
46 and Municipal Libraries, and Barangay Reading Centers, as the case may be, which have been
47 set forth in the Quality Manual of Libraries of the Philippines. Each Public Library Office shall

1 be headed by a licensed librarian and the staffing pattern shall be in compliance with and
2 pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 9246.

3
4 The NLP shall provide the standard set of reference books and other materials such as,
5 but not limited to, encyclopedias, dictionaries, maps and globes upon the establishment of
6 the libraries. The NLP shall continue to supply the public libraries with other books, non-book
7 materials, equipment, supplies and other appropriate and relevant reference and reading
8 materials, taking into consideration the needs of the community concerned.

9
10 SEC. 16. **Overall Coordinating Authority.** – The NLP shall be under the administrative
11 supervision of the NCCA

12
13 SEC. 17. **Public Online Library.** - The NLP shall establish a versatile and comprehensive
14 computer and electronic library system which shall supplement the complete standard set of
15 books to be provided to public libraries and reading centers with e-books, online research
16 resources, and other similar materials. The Public Online Library shall be developed in
17 coordination with the DepEd, DICT, DOST, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and
18 the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in partnership with the
19 National Library of the Philippines, the National Book Development Board, and other
20 concerned government agencies.

21
22 The DepEd shall also provide the NLP with digitized copies of all textbooks and reference
23 materials which they deem necessary for the public education of Philippine Elementary and
24 Secondary Students. The Public Online Library shall be jointly managed by the NLP, DICT, and
25 DepEd.

26
27 The NLP shall have custody over the digitized copies of all books, textbooks, reference
28 materials, and other resources to be included in the Public Online Library. The DICT shall take
29 charge of the technological management of the digital repository to ensure the integrity of
30 the system.

31
32 SEC. 18. **Annual Report.** – Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, and at
33 the end of every calendar year thereafter, the Commissioner of the NLP shall submit detailed
34 progress reports on the progress, condition, and needs of the NLP to the Office of the
35 President of the Philippines and each House of Congress.

36
37 SEC. 19. **Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the National Library of the**
38 **Philippines.** – There is hereby created a Joint Oversight Committee to oversee, monitor and
39 evaluate the implementation of this Act.

40
41 The Oversight Committee shall be composed of five (5) members each from the Senate
42 and from the House of Representatives, including the Chairs of the Committees on Basic
43 Education and Culture, and Finance in the Senate and Appropriations in the House of
44 Representatives. The membership of the Committee for each House shall have at least one
45 (1) opposition or minority member.

1 SEC. 20. ***Tax Exemptions of The National Library of the Philippines.*** – The importation
2 of equipment relating to creative industry, books, art related supplies, musical instruments,
3 materials and goods, including those donated to the NLP shall be exempt from customs duty
4 in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the
5 “Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)”: *Provided*, That these are of international
6 standards and are not available from local manufacturers: *Provided, further*, That the
7 importation shall only be in such numbers as may be required in the development programs
8 and/or training of librarians, staff, and the general public, as the case may be: *Provided*,
9 *finally*, That all importations shall be made in the name of the NLP as recipient and shall be
10 immediately registered in the name of the NLP.

11
12 SEC. 21. ***Tax Exemption on Donations.*** – All grants, bequest, endowments, donations
13 and contributions made to the NLP that are actually, directly, and exclusively used by the NLP,
14 shall be exempt from donor’s tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deduction
15 from the gross income in the computation of the income tax of the donor in accordance with
16 the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

17
18 SEC. 22. ***Trust.*** - All income, fees, and revenues earned and collected by the Agency shall
19 constitute a trust fund in the name of NLP to be managed and used by NLP to further carry
20 out its functions. All incomes, fees, revenues, and donations earned and collected by the NLP
21 shall constitute a trust fund, to be known as the National Library Fund, which the NLP shall be
22 authorized to retain, without need of a separate approval from any government agency, and
23 subject only to existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations. This fund shall be
24 expended as authorized by the NLP Management exclusively for the purposes of this Act.

25
26 SEC 23. ***Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary for the effective implementation of
27 this Act shall be included in the NLP budget in the annual General Appropriations Act. The
28 budget for the initial allocation and additional allocation for public libraries shall be included
29 in the GAA of the year following its enactment and for every year thereafter. The budget for
30 every public library shall be determined by the respective LGUs.

31
32 The local government units shall undertake the maintenance of public libraries and
33 reading centers while the NLP shall continue to provide reading materials and supplies to the
34 said libraries and reading centers.

35
36 SEC. 24. ***Implementing Agencies.*** - The NLP, in coordination with the NCCA, DepEd,
37 CHed, TESDA, DILG, DICT, and the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) shall be responsible for
38 implementing the provisions of this Act.

39
40 Within (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the implementing agencies shall
41 promulgate the implementing rules and regulations as may be necessary to ensure the
42 efficient and effective implementation of this Act. *Provided*, The NLP shall include the
43 evaluation scheme/accreditation for the public libraries while the DILG shall include sanctions
44 for non-compliance of LGUs.

45
46 SEC. 25. ***Separability Clause.*** - Should any part of this Act be declared unconstitutional
47 or inoperative, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.

1
2 SEC. 26. **Repealing Clause.** - Act Nos. 222, 1849, 1935, 2572, 3477, Executive Order 94,
3 Republic Act No. Three Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Three (R.A. 3873), otherwise known
4 as "An Act Changing the Name of the Bureau of Public Libraries to the National Library," and
5 Republic Act No. Ten Thousand Eighty-Seven (R.A. No. 10087), otherwise known as "An Act
6 Amending Republic Act No. 3873, Entitled An Act Changing the Name of the Bureau of Public
7 Libraries To The National Library"are hereby repealed. The provisions of other laws, decrees,
8 executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed,
9 amended, or modified accordingly.

10
11 SEC. 27. **Effectivity.** - Notwithstanding the non-issuance of an Implementing Rules and
12 Regulations, this Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*
13 *Gazette* and/or in at least two (2) national newspapers in general circulation.

14
15
16 *Approved,*