

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8572



Introduced by Representative Roman T. Romulo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to institutionalize the participation of our nation in the international exhibitions of the Venice Biennale.

It is the policy of the State to prioritize arts and culture to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.¹

Though the Venice Biennale commenced its exhibitions in 1895, the Philippines started participating only in 1964 during its 32nd exposition through the endeavors of the Art Association of the Philippines (AAP) where the works of Napoleon Abueva and Jose Joya, both are now National Artists, were presented.

After 51 years, the Philippines joined the Venice Art Biennale exhibiting a film entitled *Genghis Khan* (1950) by National Artists Manuel Conde and Carlos "Botong" Francisco, *Shoal* by Jose Tence Ruiz, and *A Dashed State* by Manny Montelibano, under the curatorship of Dr. Patrick Flores. We were invited again in 2022 where our theme was *Andi taku e sana, Amung taku di sana / All of us present, This is our gathering* curated by Yael Buencamino Borromeo

¹ The 1987 Constitution, Article II, Sec. 17.

and Alvin Flores and arrayed the works of Gerardo Tan, Felicidad A. Prudente and Sammy N. Buhle.

Our nation also took part in the Venice Architecture Biennale in 2016 presenting *Muhon: Traces of an Adolescent City*; in 2018 showcasing *The City Who Had Two Navels*; and in 2021 unveiling *Structures of Mutual Support*.

Participating in prestigious international events is crucial in bringing honor and pride to our country, inspiring our youth, and instilling a love for our nation in the citizenry.

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



ROMAN T. ROMULO

Lone District, Pasig City

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING PHILIPPINE PARTICIPATION IN THE
INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS OF THE VENICE BIENNALE

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 Venice Biennale*
2 *Act"*.

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** — It is hereby declared policy of the State to:

- 5
6 a. Recognize the important role of the 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 inclusive
10 nation-building;
11
12 c. Nurture, promote and sustain Filipino cultural and artistic diversity that mirrors and
13 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 shapes
19 Philippine economic, social and political life; and
20
21 f. Promote and disseminate to the greatest number of people the talent and ingenuity
22 of our artists.

1
2 **SEC. 3.** *The Philippine Participation in the International Exhibitions of the Venice*
3 *Biennale.*— The country shall endeavor to participate yearly in the international exhibitions
4 of the Venice Biennale held in Venice, Italy.

5
6 **SEC. 4.** *The Philippine Arts in Venice Biennale Coordinating Committee.* — The Philippine Arts
7 in Venice Biennale Coordinating Committee (PAVB-CC) is hereby created to oversee the
8 country's participation every year in the Venice Biennale exhibitions in Venice, Italy. It shall
9 act as coordinator and commissioner for the Philippine Pavilion in the Biennale exhibitions,
10 and lead in the following activities:

- 11
12 a) Manage the selection process for curatorial proposals;
13
14 b) Coordinate the timely installation of the Philippine Pavilion in Venice and of the
15 homecoming exhibition; and,
16
17 c) Such other activities may be necessary for the execution of its mandate.
18

19 The PAVB-CC shall be lodged in the National Commission for Culture and the Arts
20 (NCCA). When necessary, the Department of Foreign Affairs shall provide administrative
21 support through its foreign posts.
22

23 **SEC. 5.** *Homecoming.* — All Philippine Pavilion exhibitions shall be installed and mounted in
24 appropriate government facilities and exhibition spaces for at least one year for the viewing
25 and appreciation of the general public.
26

27 **SEC. 6.** *Appropriation.* — The initial fund of this Act shall be taken from the current year's
28 appropriations of the NCCA (Proper). Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continued
29 implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
30

31 **SEC. 7.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within sixty (60) days from the date of
32 effectivity of this Act, the NCCA shall formulate the rules and regulations for the proper
33 implementation of this Act.
34

35 **SEC. 8.** *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
36 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full
37 force and effect.
38

39 **SEC. 9.** *Repealing Clause.*— All laws, executive and administrative orders, rules and
40 regulations inconsistent with the foregoing provisions are hereby repealed or modified
41 accordingly.
42

1 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause.*** — Notwithstanding the non-issuance of the IRR, this Act shall take
2 effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspaper of
3 general circulation.
4
5 *Approved.*