



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 11331



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MARLYN B. ALONTE

AN ACT PRESERVING THE COUNTRY'S TRADITIONAL FOLK ARTS AS PART OF ITS INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11333, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES ACT" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 11333, also known as the "National Museum of the Philippines Act," was enacted on April 26, 2019. This law designates the National Museum of the Philippines as the primary institution responsible for the management and development of museums and collections of national significance in the fields of arts, cultural heritage, and natural history. Additionally, the law seeks to enhance regional museums and satellite offices by expanding the museum's services to all regions of the Philippines. These initiatives aim to elevate regional museums as key cultural and informational centers that benefit both local communities and tourists.

While Republic Act No. 11333 has established a robust framework for the preservation of the Philippines' national heritage, it is equally important to address the preservation of the country's traditional folk arts. These folk arts, deeply embedded in Filipino culture and history, are an irreplaceable and vital part of the national identity. To ensure that future generations of Filipinos fully appreciate and understand the richness of our cultural heritage, it is crucial to take deliberate action to preserve these traditional practices and arts.

The preservation and transmission of cultural heritage in the Philippines have long been expressed through initiatives such as the *Gawad sa Manlilikha ng Bayan* (National Living Treasures Award) and the *Schools of Living Tradition* programs. These efforts are in line with UNESCO's second approach to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, which stresses the importance of transmitting valuable knowledge and traditions to younger generations.

This bill seeks to mandate regional museums to serve as vital venues for the conservation and promotion of traditional folk arts. In doing so, the National Museum of the Philippines will be better positioned to fulfill its mission of developing regional museums as essential educational and cultural resource centers that reflect the full diversity of Filipino artistic, cultural, and natural heritage.

By institutionalizing this policy, we can ensure that the wide array of traditional folk arts from across the Philippines are preserved, celebrated, and passed on to future generations, fostering a deeper sense of national pride and cultural identity.

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



REP. MARLYN B. ALONTE

Lone District of Biñan, Laguna



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 11331

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MARLYN B. ALONTE

AN ACT PRESERVING THE COUNTRY'S TRADITIONAL FOLK ARTS AS PART OF ITS INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11333, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES ACT" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 11333, otherwise known as the "*National Museum Philippines Act*", is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 10. *Central Museums*. – The central museums of the National Museum shall include the existing National Museum of Fine Arts, National Museum of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History and the National Planetarium. The National Museum shall also take steps towards the establishment of central museums dedicated to archaeology, **TRADITIONAL FOLK ARTS**, maritime and underwater cultural heritage, architectural arts and built heritage, and political and social history, which may be established within its National Museum Complex or elsewhere within the National Capital Region as appropriate, together with an institute for professional education, training and development in museology and allied fields, and a conservation center for movable cultural properties of national significance."

Sec. 2. Sec. 11 of R.A. No. 11333 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 11. *Regional, Area, and Site Museums and Satellite Offices*. – The National Museum shall maintain its existing regional, area and site museums and satellite offices and, if none exists, take steps towards establishing a regional museum and satellite office in each administrative region of the Philippines beyond the National Capital Region, as well as area and site museums and offices wherever necessary: *Provided*, That MUSEUM BRANCHES WITH TEN (10) OR MORE PERSONNEL AND/OR HIGH PROPERTY ACCOUNTABILITY OR CULTURAL VALUE SHALL BE UPGRADED TO REGIONAL MUSEUMS UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE

NATIONAL MUSEUM: **PROVIDED FURTHER**, THAT such regional network of the National Museum shall be coordinated with that of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), and other relevant cultural agencies to prevent institutional duplication.

THE REGIONAL MUSEUMS SHALL SERVE AS INFORMATION AND CULTURAL CENTERS OFFERING COMPREHENSIVE AND SUBSTANTIAL COLLECTION OF LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS, OBJECTS OF ART, TRADITIONAL FOLK ARTS, AND OTHER LOCAL CULTURAL TREASURES, AND SHALL, IN COORDINATION WITH THE NCCA, SPEARHEAD THE CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION, AND PROMOTION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE SCHOOLS OF LIVING TRADITION FOUND WITHIN THEIR LOCALITIES.

The specific sites of new regional, area and site museums and satellite offices shall be selected based on considerations of geography, population distribution, and administrative efficiency as well as of outstanding national artistic, cultural and natural heritage significance, and educational, environmental and tourism considerations."

Sec. 3. A new Section 13 of R.A. No. 11333 is hereby inserted to read as follows and the succeeding sections shall be renumbered accordingly:

"SEC. 13. *Creation of Traditional Folk Arts Museums.* – THE NATIONAL MUSEUM SHALL FACILITATE THE CREATION OF TRADITIONAL FOLK ARTS MUSEUMS IN SELECT PROVINCES: **PROVIDED**, THAT THESE PROVINCES SHALL BEAR THE FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTANENANCE OF SUCH FACILITIES: **PROVIDED FURTHER**, THAT THESE TRADITIONAL FOLK ARTS MUSEUMS SHALL BE DIRECTLY MANAGED AND SUPERVISED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE PROVINCES WITH ASSISTANCE FROM AN ADVISORY PANEL COMPOSED OF PERSONNEL FROM THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL MUSEUMS."

Sec. 4. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part, section or provision of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts, sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

Sec. 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication either in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

