

Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3399**



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**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PM VARGAS**

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**AN ACT**  
**CREATING THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FILIPINO WOMEN AND**  
**APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Filipino women have played invaluable roles throughout Philippine history in its plight for freedom against colonizers as well as in fighting modern-day injustices in society. Filipino women have long recognized the intersectionality of struggles and have advocated for social justice alongside gender equality and human rights.

While the contributions of Filipino heroines are taught in history classes in basic education, classic textbooks are often devoted to the typical hero mold of machismo and valor. This leaves the Filipino heroines mostly clustered in one section despite having fought the same war as their male counterparts.

Current legislation of the State such as Republic Act 8492 or the National Museum Act of 1998 and RA 10066 or the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009 however intended to pursue and support the cultural development of people through the preservation, enrichment and dynamic evolution of Filipino culture, also do not put as much emphasis on the role of females in historic and contemporary eras.

With the goal of highlighting women's roles and contributions to society, this bill seeks the establishment of a national museum dedicated to the protection, preservation, presentation and promotion of historical and social and archaeological legacies of Filipinas all throughout history.

The national museum shall serve as a medium to showcase the active

involvement of women in the economic, social, political, and cultural life of the nation as well as a major opportunity to re-appraise the role that women play in shaping contemporary societies.

This bill has been approved on third and final reading in the House of Representatives during the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress, but has unfortunately failed to be enacted into law. Recognizing the merits of this important legislation for gender equality, the same version that has been approved by this august chamber is hereby refiled in the 20<sup>th</sup> Congress.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'PM VARGAS', is positioned above the printed name.

**REP. PM VARGAS**

Fifth District, Quezon City

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "*National Museum  
of Filipino Women Act*".

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

- a) Acknowledge the remarkable contributions of women to economic progress and nation-building and the preservation and promotion of the Filipino way of life;
- b) Celebrate women whose various individual and collective actions significantly advanced the national effort to conquer inequality, discrimination, and deprivation;
- c) Raise awareness of and build an appreciation of history and the role that women have played in its making;
- d) Honor the heroism of women who played a significant role in the national struggle against colonialism and foreign invasion;
- e) Commemorate modern-day heroines and women martyrs who struggled against injustice, oppression, and exploitation, especially during the Martial Law era in the Philippines;
- f) Acknowledge the suffering borne by women who were coerced into sexual slavery during World War II and support their call for reparation and justice; and
- g) Honor individual women, including women and girls with disabilities, whose specific achievements have caused a positive impact on and enriched all aspects of Filipino life.

**SECTION 3. *Creation of the National Museum of Filipino Women.*** – To carry out the above policy, the National Museum of Filipino Women is hereby created and established under the administration and supervision of the Philippine Commission on Women.

**SECTION 4. *Organization, Operation and Administration.*** – The Philippine Commission on Women shall, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management, determine the organizational structure and operational requirements of the National Museum of Filipino Women, and ensure that consultative mechanisms are integrated into its institutional planning and development.

**SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, the Philippine Commission on Women shall, in consultation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, National Museum of the Philippines, National Historical Commission of the Philippines, Commission on Human Rights, Commission on Higher Education, Department of Education and at least three (3) women's and civil society organizations, formulate rules and regulations as may be necessary for its proper implementation.

**SECTION 6. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the immediate implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.*** – If for any reason, a provision or section of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other sections or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations and other issuance or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 9. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*