

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5037



Introduced by
KABATAAN Party-list Rep. RENEE LOUISE M. CO,
ACT Teachers Party-list Rep. ANTONIO L. TINIO,
Gabriela Women's Party Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO,
First District, Northern Samar Rep. NIKO RAUL S.J. DAZA,
Third District, Negros Occidental Rep. JAVIER MIGUEL LOPEZ BENITEZ,
Second District, Sultan Kudarat Rep. BELLA VANESSA B. SUANSING, and
KAMANGGAGAWA Party-list Rep. ELIJAH R. SAN FERNANDO

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY INSTRUCTION OF PHILIPPINE
CINEMA AND THEATER APPRECIATION IN SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS IN THE COUNTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The promotion of Filipino culture is an integral part of nation-building. National development cannot merely be measured through the qualification of material and economic gains, but in the overall and holistic development of the people in their political, social and cultural life as a nation. The 1987 Philippine Constitution even devotes several provisions on the promotion and preservation of Philippine arts and culture as an indispensable aspect of national development. Sec. 16, Art. XIV, for example. Provides that "The State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations."

An important aspect of any national heritage and culture is a nation's cinema and theater. Loosely defined, a "national cinema" is a country's body of films that embodies the social and cultural identity of its people. Meanwhile, "national theater" is a country's body of theater and plays portraying the social and cultural identity of its people. Throughout this century, film and theater media have been important means of reflecting the life of our nation through various genres that depict the lives of Filipinos. A genuine national policy on the promotion of Filipino

cultural heritage cannot therefore exist without the inclusion of Philippine cinema and theater development and appreciation as an integral part thereof.

During these times when economic conditions, like market forces and the cost of production, and the lack of government support have hampered and limited the full development of a truly vibrant Philippine cinema and theater and the preservation of its history, and at a time when our youth are increasingly being bombarded by the influence of foreign films and plays, it becomes more imperative and urgent to introduce our youth to Philippine cinema through series of lectures and an entire subject taught in secondary schools with regard to Filipino films with a focus on its appreciation as a collective body of artistic creations that enhance and reflect the cultural and societal identity of our nation.

In recent memory, national cinema and theater has gained its ground and prominence amongst a wide array of audience members both young and old. This revival in appreciation in cinema and theater has been vibrant, with more portrayals and performances openly addressing issues concerning our society, various trials and tribulations faced by various sectors, the hopes and expectations for a brighter future, and especially a genuine interest in our national identity.

In the various pursuit of nationalism and patriotism by both government, non-government, and civil society organizations, cinema and theater has remained an independent, yet powerful body in igniting interest and desires of the people to embody nationalist and patriotic values in their everyday lives. Films such as Jerrold Tarog's *Heneral Luna* and *Goyo: Ang Batang Heneral* have aroused public interest in our country's history against foreign domination. Recent works like Antoinette Jadaone's *Sunshine* also provoke contemplation on the lived experience of Filipinos and earnestly call audiences to action. Meanwhile, plays such as *Care Divas*, *Charot!* and *The Kundiman Party* have expounded on prominent social issues through creative and interactive means.

In the same way Philippine literature, through classics such as *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, among others, is taught in schools as a means of promoting and preserving one aspect of Filipino cultural heritage and history, Philippine cinema and theater should likewise be given the opportunity to be appreciated by our youth, with the hope not only of providing them a picture of our identity and our history as a people, but also with the hope of inspiring them to take advantage of the medium, in its traditional and its digital variations, in order to showcase and express their aspirations as the bearers of our nation's future.

This bill seeks to institute the mandatory instruction of Philippine cinema and theater appreciation courses formulated by the Department of Education, in

consultation with the National Commission for Culture and Arts (NCAA), the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), and the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP), in secondary schools across the country as separate subjects of incorporated in existing subjects now being taught, whichever is more practicable.

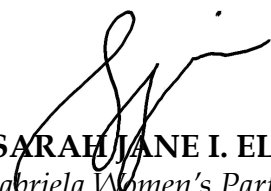
In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



REP. RENEE LOUISE M. CO
KABATAAN Party-list



REP. ANTONIO L. TINIO
ACT Teachers Party-list



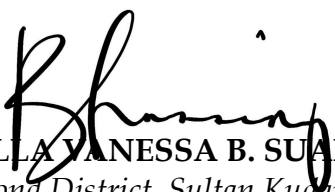
REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Gabriela Women's Party



REP. NIKO RAUL S.J. DAZA
First District, Northern Samar



REP. JAVIER MIGUEL LOPEZ BENITEZ
Third District, Negros Occidental



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Second District, Sultan Kudarat



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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 “Philippine Cinema and Theater Appreciation Act for High School Students.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It shall be the policy of the State to promote the development of and the appreciation of culture and the arts as an integral part of nation building. It shall take appropriate steps in order to fulfill this mandate. It shall, in particular, provide sufficient support for the promotion of Philippine cinema through instruction in secondary schools.

SECTION 3. *Education on Philippine Cinema and Theater.* — The Department of Education, in consultation and in close coordination with the National Commission for Culture and Arts (NCAA), the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), and the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP), shall formulate courses, and special lectures on Philippine Cinema and Theater to be taught in secondary schools across the country as separate subjects or incorporated in existing subjects now being taught, whichever is more practicable.

SECTION 4. *Educational Materials on Philippine Cinema and Theater.* – The Department of Education shall also consult and coordinate with the NCAA, CCP, and FDCP in the writing, printing and publication of textbooks, manuals and other reading materials, and in the acquisition of film and other audio-visual materials, to be used in the Philippine cinema appreciation courses.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the policy formulation, program planning, standards development and instructional materials development, and the general implementation of this Act shall be incorporated in the annual budget of the Department of education under the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Education shall promulgate and issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations within thirty (30) days after the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation. The instruction of Philippine cinema appreciation shall be taught in the academic year succeeding the effectivity of this Act.

Adopted,