

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5196



Introduced by Honorable Representatives
SARAH JANE I. ELAGO (Gabriela Women's Party),
ANTONIO L. TINIO (ACT Teachers Party-list), and
RENEE LOUISE M. CO (Kabataan Party-list)

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Filipino women have played leading and supportive roles in the Filipino's historic struggle for liberation, justice, peace, and prosperity.

Gabriela Silang, Tandang Sora, Teresa Magbanua, Trinidad Tecson, and Gregoria de Jesus fought against colonialism and foreign invasion. There, too, were women who started organizing at the turn of the century: the Logia de Adopción, a masonic lodge of Filipino women in 1893; the Asociación de Damas de la Cruz Roja (Women's Red Cross Association), and the Association of Ilonga Feminista, led by Pura Villanueva Kala, which started the nationwide campaign for women's suffrage in 1912.

The suffragettes' campaigns took the form of lobbying with government officials and holding rallies and conferences. Their efforts resulted in the passage of the suffrage bill in the Philippine Legislature in 1933, the implementation of the Administrative Code, which allowed women to vote in 1935, and the ratification of women's suffrage rights in a national plebiscite in 1937.

In the Martial Law years, activists like Lilia Hilao, Jessica Sales, Lorena Barros, and Puri Pedro sacrificed their lives for nationalism and democracy.

Yet, a national institution dedicated to commemorating the heritage, heroism, and martyrdom

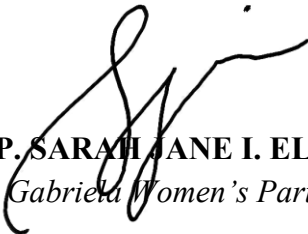
of Filipino women remains elusive in our society. The Tandang Sora Women's Museum in Quezon City, which honors the legacy of Melchora Aquino, is a welcome step in this direction, but also points to the need for a more comprehensive institution that captures the collective struggles and achievements of Filipino women. Their historic contributions to people's struggles for freedom, women's rights, gender equality, and nation-building should not go unvalued and unnoted, as it leaves a gap in our country's historical record.

Furthermore, knowledge of Filipino women's heritage and heroism is crucial in developing people's appreciation and respect for women and girls, which would then contribute to our collective endeavor to completely eliminate discrimination, oppression, and violence against women of all ages.

A National Museum of Filipino Women is needed to commemorate Filipino women's invaluable role in the making of history, as well as to document the significant achievements that women—individually and collectively—have made in all aspects of Philippine society.

Gabriela Women's Party has long been proposing this measure since the 13th Congress, where through the years of painstaking lobbying, it passed on Third Reading at the House of Representatives during the 18th Congress.

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



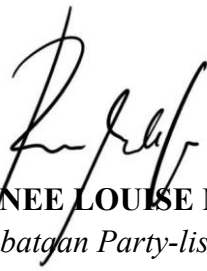
REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

Gabriela Women's Party



REP. ANTONIO L. TINIO

ACT Teachers Party-list



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Kabatagan Party-list

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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, as well as 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 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 and enriched all aspects of Filipino life.

SECTION 3. *Creation.* - 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 (PCW).

SECTION 4. *Organization, Operation and Administration.* - The PCW 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 shall be integrated in its institutional planning and development.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, the PCW 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 at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,