



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7741



Introduced by **Representative KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**
1st District, Zamboanga City

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FILIPINO WOMEN, ALIGNING IT
WITH NATIONAL GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
POLICIES, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, ENSURING
ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution affirms the vital role of women in nation-building and requires the State to ensure equality before the law and protect women's rights. However, the historical, cultural, and contemporary contributions of Filipino women are still not adequately documented, preserved, or represented in national cultural institutions.

Throughout history, Filipino women have been heroines, leaders, and cultural bearers. Today, they excel in education, science, arts, governance, labor, sports, and entrepreneurship, driving both personal and national progress.

This bill directly responds to the lack of formal recognition and representation by establishing the National Museum of Filipino Women. As a dedicated national institution, the Museum will preserve, study, and showcase the experiences and achievements of Filipino women across history and today. It will honor national heroines, cultural figures, and contemporary women whose leadership has strengthened the Philippines.

The measure places the Museum within the framework of gender mainstreaming by affiliating it with the Philippine Commission on Women and ensuring coordination with established cultural and historical agencies. This approach balances policy with institutional expertise.

The bill establishes information and education mechanisms and requires environmental sustainability and building code compliance, in line with the State's duty to protect the environment and support development.

By enacting this measure, the nation will formally recognize Filipino women as central to its story and future. This Museum will foster a constitutionally grounded, inclusive understanding of Philippine history and identity, highlighting women as enduring leaders and sources of inspiration.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


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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.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to recognize the vital role of women in nation-building, consistent with the Constitution and Republic Act No. 9710, otherwise known as the *Magna Carta of Women*, which affirms the State's obligation to ensure substantive equality and institutionalize gender mainstreaming in governance. The State further recognizes, consistent with Republic Act No. 10066, otherwise known as the *National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009*, that cultural heritage is a vital component of national identity and must be preserved, documented, and promoted through appropriate institutions.

Despite the significant historical and contemporary contributions of Filipino women as leaders, heroines, cultural workers, professionals, and innovators, such contributions remain inadequately documented and represented in national cultural institutions. To address this gap, the State shall establish a dedicated national museum to preserve, study, and showcase the experiences and achievements of Filipino women, thereby fostering an inclusive and constitutionally grounded understanding of Philippine history and identity.

SECTION 3. *Establishment.* - There is hereby established a National Museum of Filipino Women, hereinafter referred to as the "Museum," which shall serve as a specialized national institution devoted to the collection, conservation, research, exhibition, and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage relating to Filipino women. The establishment of the Museum shall be without prejudice to the mandates of existing national cultural agencies and shall complement, not duplicate, their functions.

SECTION 4. Objectives. - The Museum shall be affiliated with the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) to ensure consistency with national gender equality and gender mainstreaming policies under RA No. 9710. It shall coordinate with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), and the National Museum of the Philippines, pursuant to RA No. 10066 and RA No. 8492, to ensure professional museum practice, historical accuracy, and cultural heritage protection.

The Museum shall have the following objectives:

- (a) To document, preserve, and exhibit the historical and contemporary contributions of Filipino women in all sectors of society;
- (b) To honor national heroines, women leaders, and cultural figures whose work has contributed to nation-building;
- (c) To promote public education and awareness on women's roles in Philippine history and development, consistent with the Magna Carta of Women;
- (d) To support research, scholarship, and cultural production on women's studies and gender equality; and
- (e) To strengthen national identity by ensuring women's experiences are fully represented in the national historical narrative.

SECTION 5 Powers and Functions. - The Museum shall have the authority to:

- (a) Collect, acquire, conserve, restore, and manage artifacts, artworks, archival materials, oral histories, and digital records relating to Filipino women, in accordance with **RA No. 10066** and internationally accepted museum standards;
- (b) Curate permanent, temporary, traveling, and digital exhibitions;
- (c) Conduct and support research, documentation, and publication initiatives;
- (d) Develop educational and outreach programs in coordination with the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, and other relevant agencies;
- (e) Enter into memoranda of agreement with government agencies, local government units, academic institutions, cultural organizations, and women's groups;
- (f) Accept donations, grants, endowments, sponsorships, and bequests, subject to existing laws; and
- (g) Perform such other acts as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 6. Administration. - The Museum shall be headed by an Executive Director, appointed in accordance with existing civil service and government appointment laws, who shall possess demonstrated competence in museum administration, history, culture, women's studies, or related fields. An Advisory Council composed of representatives from PCW, relevant cultural agencies, the academe, and women's organizations may be created to provide policy guidance and technical expertise.

SECTION 7. Environmental Sustainability Compliance. - The planning, design, construction, rehabilitation, and operation of the National Museum of Filipino Women shall strictly comply with all applicable environmental laws and regulations, the National Green Building Code, accessibility requirements, and all national and local building codes and standards. Such compliance shall be mandatory and enforceable, consistent with the State's policy on environmental protection, climate resilience, and sustainable development.

SECTION 8. *Audit.* - The books of accounts and financial records of the Museum shall be subject to audit by the Commission on Audit (COA) in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 1445, otherwise known as the *Government Auditing Code of the Philippines*, and other applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

SECTION 9. *Annual Report.* - The Museum shall submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines and to Congress, through the appropriate committees, not later than ninety (90) days after the end of each fiscal year, containing:

- (1) A summary of programs and accomplishments;
- (2) Audited financial statements and fund utilization reports;
- (3) An assessment of institutional impact; and
- (4) Plans and budgetary requirements for the succeeding year.

SECTION 10. *Congressional Oversight and Sunset Review.* - Five (5) years after the effectivity of this Act, Congress shall conduct a comprehensive review of the implementation and effectiveness of the National Museum of Filipino Women to determine whether the Act should be maintained, amended, or strengthened.

SECTION 11. *Funding.* - The funds necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of concerned agencies. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

All income generated by the Museum from admission fees, grants, donations, sponsorships, merchandising, rentals, and other lawful sources shall be used exclusively for the construction, rehabilitation, operation, maintenance, and program implementation of the National Museum of Filipino Women.

Any unexpended or unused funds of the Museum at the end of the fiscal year shall accrue to the National Treasury of the Republic of the Philippines, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing laws.

SECTION 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PCW, in coordination with concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations.

SECTION 13. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 14. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

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

Approved,