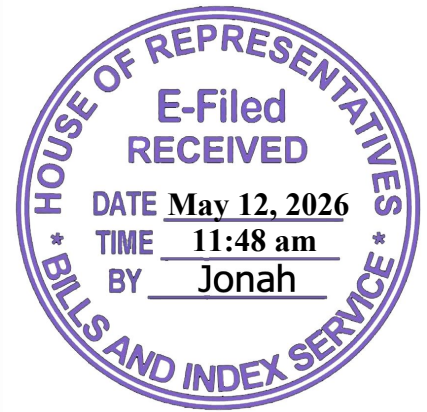


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 9198

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution mandates the State to conserve and promote the nation's cultural and historical heritage, and to ensure that arts and culture are integral to national development. Despite this clear policy direction, cultural governance in the Philippines remains fragmented among multiple agencies, resulting in policy incoherence and limited integration of culture into long-term development planning.

This bill proposes the establishment of a Department of Culture to serve as the primary agency responsible for the formulation, coordination, regulation, and implementation of national policies on culture, heritage, arts, and the creative industries. Centralizing these functions will strengthen institutional coherence, improve service delivery, and ensure that cultural considerations are systematically mainstreamed into governance, education, disaster risk reduction, and economic policy.

Empirical evidence underscores the urgency of this measure. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the country's creative economy was valued at ₱1.94 trillion in 2024, accounting for 7.3 percent of Gross Domestic Product and providing employment to 7.51 million Filipinos, or 15.4 percent of total national employment. Traditional cultural expression activities comprise more than one-third of creative employment, demonstrating the direct link between cultural heritage, livelihoods, and inclusive growth. These figures confirm that culture is not merely a social sector concern but a significant economic pillar requiring focused and sustained governance.

Studies by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS)¹ further identify the creative and cultural sectors as engines for inclusive and locally rooted development, particularly when supported by coherent national policy and institutional leadership. However, the absence of a dedicated department has constrained the State's ability to fully harness this potential, especially in supporting cultural workers, indigenous communities, and regional creative ecosystems.

International experience and global policy research also support the establishment of a culture department. UNESCO, through its Culture 2030 Indicators and its Global Report on Cultural Policies, emphasizes that effective cultural governance requires strong, centralized institutions capable of safeguarding heritage, promoting cultural rights, and integrating culture into sustainable development strategies. Comparative studies show that countries with dedicated cultural ministries or departments demonstrate stronger heritage protection, clearer policy direction, and better alignment between culture, education, tourism, and the creative economy.

This measure also aligns with existing national frameworks, particularly Republic Act No. 11904, or the Philippine Creative Industries Development Act, by ensuring synergy between cultural heritage preservation and the growth of creative industries. By strengthening cultural education, improving the welfare of artists and cultural workers, rationalizing existing agencies, and enhancing the Philippines' capacity for international cultural engagement, the proposed Department of Culture institutionalizes culture as a public good, a constitutional right, and a strategic development resource.

In view of the constitutional mandate, economic evidence, and international best practice, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI
Representative, 3rd District of Bukidnon

¹ [PIDS - Philippine Institute for Development Studies](#)

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title*** - This Act shall be known as the "Department of Culture
2 Act."

3
4 **ARTICLE I**
5 **DECLARATION OF POLICY**

6
7 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** It is hereby declared the policy of the State:

8 (a) To recognize that culture is a unifying, humanizing and modernizing
9 agent/instrument of any society, and the patrimony and right of every citizen of
10 the Philippines;

11 (b) To recognize the vital role of culture in nation-building;

12 (c) To incorporate considerations of culture in the formulation of appropriate and
13 significant political and economic policy that will better serve Filipinos and
14 ensure that all Filipinos enjoy full cultural rights, take full advantage of a
15 dynamic cultural experience, and be inspired, sustained by, draw from,
16 contribute to and celebrate the country's culture;

17 (d) To create a national body which will develop, manage and be responsible for
18 the implementation of policy, legislation and strategic direction for the
19 protection, regulation, preservation, development, management, dissemination

1 and promotion of the country's culture, relative to the immense national
2 resources, patrimony and wealth engendered and amassed through countless
3 generations and centuries of distinctive Filipino ways of life and experiences in
4 specific natural and social environments that this represents, and to facilitate the
5 convergence of various agencies with cultural mandates and rationalize their
6 organizations and functions;

- 7 (e) To foster, strengthen, and accelerate the convergence of various cultural
8 offices agencies, and rationalize their organizations and functions;
- 9 (f) To recognize that cultural education is the right of every citizen and therefore
10 ensure that cultural literacy is inculcated in the development and education of
11 all Filipinos;
- 12 (g) To promote the national language of the country while enhancing the linguistic
13 diversity of the Philippines; and,
- 14 (h) To secure and improve the welfare of Filipino artists and cultural workers
- 15 (i) The Department shall continually review the state and needs of culture and arts
16 in the context of the country's developmental goals.
- 17 (j) To support and promote the development of the Philippine creative economy,
18 in coordination with the Philippine Creative Industries Development Council,
19 and ensure synergy between cultural heritage preservation and the growth of
20 cultural and creative industries in accordance with Republic Act No. 11904 or
21 the Philippine Creative Industries Development Act.

22
23 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be
24 defined as follow:

- 25 (a) "Art" shall refer to the expression or application of human creative skill and
26 imagination.
- 27 (b) "Conservation" shall refer to all process and measures of maintaining the
28 cultural significance of a cultural property, including but not limited to,
29 preservation, restoration, reconstruction, protection, adaptive re-use or any
30 combination thereof.
- 31 (c) "Cultural agencies" shall refer to any of the following national government
32 agencies with their specific areas of responsibility: National Museum of the
33 Philippines (cultural property), the National Library of the Philippines (books),
34 National Historical Commission of the Philippines (Philippine history), the

1 National Archives of the Philippines (documents) the Cultural Center of the
2 Philippines (culture and arts) and Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (language).

3 (d) "Cultural Education" shall refer to the teaching and learning of cultural concepts
4 and processes.

5 (e) "Cultural Heritage" shall refer to the totality of cultural property preserved and
6 developed through time and passed on to posterity.

7 (f) "Cultural Property" shall refer to all products of human creativity by which
8 people and nation reveal their identity, including architecture and sites or human
9 activity [churches, mosques and other places of religious worship, schools] and
10 natural history specimens and sites, whether public or privately owned, movable
11 or immovable, and tangible or intangible.

12 (g) "Culture" shall refer to the broad spectrum of people's beliefs, practices,
13 customs and traditions, material culture, arts, and other forms of actual and
14 symbolic expressions and representations which are handed down from one
15 generation to the next in the process of interaction.

16 (h) "History" shall refer to a written record of past events relating to Philippine
17 history.

18 (i) "Indigenous Cultural Communities/ Indigenous Peoples" shall refer to a group
19 of people or homogenous societies identified by self-ascription and ascription
20 by others, who have continuously lived as organized community on
21 communally bounded and defined territory, and who have, under claims of
22 ownership since time immemorial, occupied, possessed and utilized such
23 territories, sharing common bonds of language, customs, traditions and other
24 distinctive cultural traits, or who have, through resistance to political, social and
25 cultural inroads of colonization, non-indigenous religions and cultures, became
26 historically differentiated from the majority of Filipinos. ICCs/IPs shall likewise
27 include peoples who are regarded as indigenous on account of their descent
28 from the populations which inhabited the country, at the time of conquest or
29 colonization, or at the time of inroads of non-indigenous religions and cultures,
30 or the establishment of present state boundaries, who retain some or all of their
31 own social, economic, cultural and political institutions, but who may have been
32 displaced from their traditional domains or who may have resettled outside their
33 ancestral domains;

(j) "Intangible Cultural Heritage" shall refer to practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills, as well as instrument, objects and artifacts associated therewith, that communities, groups and individual recognize as part of their cultural heritage, such as:

- a. oral traditions, usages, customs, languages and other expressions;
- b. performing arts;
- c. social practices, religious rites, rituals, culinary traditions, and festive events;
- d. knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, worship and
- e. traditional craftsmanship.

ARTICLE II THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE

SEC. 4. *Creation of the Department of Culture.* There is hereby created the Department of Culture (Kagawaran ng Kultura), hereinafter referred to as the Department, which shall be the primary policy-formulating, planning, coordinating, implementing, and administrative entity of the executive branch of the National Government that will implement the pertinent provisions of the Constitution regarding culture and arts as well as the aforementioned policy of the State.

The Department with its attached agencies shall be responsible for the protection, preservation, regulation, development, management, dissemination and promotion of the cultural, historical and artistic heritage and resources, tangible and intangible, of the Philippines and the Filipino people, all of which, with their physical and social contexts and environments, are understood as together constituting and pertaining to Philippine culture for purposes of this Act.

The Department shall continually review the state and needs of culture and arts in the context of the country's developmental goals.

SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions.* The Department shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- (a) Formulate and implement national policies, plans, programs, and guidelines for the protection, preservation, regulation, development, management,

1 dissemination and promotion of culture, to ensure overall consistency,
2 effectiveness, efficiency, and conformity with the policies of the State
3 articulated in the Constitution as well as in this Act and other pertinent laws and
4 issuances;

- 5 (b) Assume and exercise all existing regulatory and quasi-judicial functions
6 established under Republic Act No. 4846, or "The Cultural Properties
7 Preservation and Protection Act;" Presidential Decree No. 374, or "Amending
8 the Cultural Properties Preservation and Protection Act;" Presidential Decree
9 No. 1616, or "Creation of the Intramuros Administration;" Presidential Decree
10 No. 1748, or "An Act Amending the Charter of the Intramuros Administration;"
11 Republic Act No. 8491, or "The Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines;"
12 Republic Act No. 9105, or "Art and Forgery Act of 2001;" Republic Act No.
13 10066, or "The National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009;" and, Republic Act No.
14 10086 or "Strengthening Peoples' Nationalism Through Philippine History
15 Act;" as well as such functions promulgated through executive issuances that
16 pertain to the agencies of the National Government covered under this Act,
17 which are all hereby transferred in toto to the Department from the said
18 agencies;
- 19 (c) Be responsible for disaster risk reduction and management relative to culture
20 and cultural property, both through its own programs and projects as well as
21 through the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and
22 Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils, on which it shall
23 have full membership, representation and participation;
- 24 (d) Recommend to the President of the Philippines the designation, through
25 Presidential Proclamation, with appropriate published guidelines pertaining
26 thereto, of a cultural property, whether immovable or movable, tangible or
27 intangible, as a National Cultural Monument, a category hereby established
28 which incorporates the previously-established legal definitions of, criteria
29 pertaining to, and all cultural property previously declared by authorized
30 agencies as National Cultural Treasure, National Historical Landmark, National
31 Historical Shrine, National Historical Monument, and National Historical Site;
- 32 (e) Designate, through Department Order, and with appropriate published
33 guidelines pertaining thereto, cultural property, whether immovable or
34 movable, tangible or intangible, as National Cultural Property, a category

1 hereby established which incorporates the previously-established legal
2 definitions of, criteria pertaining to, and all cultural property previously
3 declared by authorized agencies as Important Cultural Property and Heritage
4 House;

- 5 (f) Administer the qualification and selection, with appropriate published
6 guidelines pertaining thereto, of the Award for National Living Treasures
7 (Gawad ng Manlilikha ng Bayan), which is hereby renamed as the Order of
8 National Living Treasures (Orden ng mga Pambansang Manlilikha ng Bayan),
9 and the Order of National Artists (Orden ng mga Pambansang Alagad ng
10 Sining), and recommend those nominees to either Order who have been
11 qualified and selected to the President of the Philippines for proclamation as
12 such and conferral of the same;
- 13 (g) Undertake, through a National Institute of Culture and Arts Management and
14 the Institutes of Living Traditions to be established for the purpose, in an
15 appropriate partnership with the academic sector, the education, training and
16 certification of cultural officers and personnel as a necessary qualification for
17 employment and promotion in the National Government and in local
18 governments where such might be required by the Department in coordination
19 with the Civil Service Commission and the Career Executive Service Board, at
20 the career sub-professional, career professional, and career executive levels, to
21 include appropriate courses and programs towards certificates, diplomas, and
22 undergraduate and graduate degrees;
- 23 (h) Administer the qualification, selection and conferral of such other awards as it
24 may establish in support of its mandate;
- 25 (i) Support the development of the cultural, artistic and creative industries of the
26 country, in all particulars and at all levels;
- 27 (j) Coordinate with the PCIDC and relevant government agencies to align cultural
28 development plans, heritage promotion, and cultural asset management with the
29 strategies and objectives of Republic Act No. 11904, and to strengthen the
30 cultural dimensions of the Philippine creative economy;
- 31 (k) Administer the endowment funds established separately under Section 20 of
32 Republic Act No. 7356, The Law Creating the National Commission for culture
33 and the Arts;" and Section 50 of Republic Act No. 10066, which are herein
34 consolidated into a single National Endowment Fund for Culture and Arts

(NEFCA) that shall continue to be sourced and augmented as provided by the
aforementioned provisions, and provide financial support from this fund for
various national programs through a system of grants drawing from the
proceeds, including both principal and interest, of the same, subject to the
approval of the Department of Budget and Management.

(l) Represent the Philippines in matters pertaining to culture in overseas regional
and international organizations and events.

(m) Other powers and functions as may be created, assigned or transferred by the
President of the Philippines in accordance with law.

SEC. 6. *Composition.* The Department proper shall include the Office of the Secretary
and the staff units directly under it, including the Services established herein. The Office of the
Secretary shall consist of the Secretary, at least three (3) Undersecretaries, and at least five (5)
Assistant Secretaries, together with the personnel in their immediate offices.

SEC. 7. *Secretary of Culture.* The authority and responsibility for the exercise of the
mandate of the Department and for the discharge of its powers and functions shall be vested in
the Secretary, who shall have supervision and control of the Department and shall be appointed
by the President of the Philippines, subject to the confirmation by the Commission on
Appointments.

SEC. 8. *Powers and Functions of the Secretary.* —The Secretary shall have the
following powers and functions:

- (a) Provide executive direction and supervision over the entire operations of the
Department and exercise administrative supervision over its attached agencies;
- (b) Establish policies and standards for the effective, efficient and economical
operation of the Department, in accordance with the programs of government;
- (c) Promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out department mandates,
objectives, policies, functions, plans, programs and projects;
- (d) Promulgate administrative issuances necessary for the efficient administration
of the offices under the Secretary and for proper execution of the laws relative
thereto. These issuances shall not prescribe penalties for their violation, except
when expressly authorized by law;

- 1 (e) Rationalize delivery systems necessary for the effective attainment of the
2 objectives of the Department, in accordance with the programs of Government;
- 3 (f) Appoint all officers and employees of the Department except those whose
4 appointments are vested in the President or in some other appointing authority
5 and shall appoint employees to positions in the second level in the regional
6 offices as defined in this Act and in accordance with the Civil Service laws,
7 rules and regulations;
- 8 (g) Exercise disciplinary powers over officers and employees under the Secretary
9 in accordance with law, including their investigation and the designation of a
10 committee or officer to conduct such investigation;
- 11 (h) Sit on the governing boards of attached agencies as provided in this Act, as well
12 as any other agencies or organizations as may be appropriate or designated;
- 13 (i) Coordinate with local governments, other agencies and public and private
14 interests' groups, including non-government organizations (NGOs) and
15 people's organizations (POs) on Department policies and initiatives;
- 16 (j) Advise the President of the Philippines and make recommendations on the
17 promulgation of executive and administrative orders and regulatory and
18 legislative proposals on matters pertaining to culture;
- 19 (k) Formulate and enforce a system of measuring and evaluating periodically and
20 objectively the performance of the Department and submit the same annually to
21 the President;
- 22 (l) Prepare and submit to the President through the Department of Budget and
23 Management an estimate of the necessary expenditures of the department during
24 the next fiscal year, on the basis of the reports and estimates submitted by
25 bureaus and officers under the Department;
- 26 (m) Exercise jurisdiction over all bureaus, offices, agencies and corporations under
27 the Department as are provided by law; and,
- 28 (n) Performs such other functions as may be provided by law or assigned by the
29 President of the Republic of the Philippines.
- 30

31 **SEC. 9. *Undersecretaries.*** The Secretary shall be assisted by three (3)
32 Undersecretaries, who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the
33 recommendation of the Secretary, at least two (2) of whom shall be career officers. In general,
34 the undersecretaries shall:

- 1 (a) Advise and assist the Secretary in the formulation and implementation of
2 department objectives and policies;
- 3 (b) Oversee all the operational activities of the bureau or units for which he shall
4 be responsible as assigned by the Secretary;
- 5 (c) Coordinate the programs and projects of the same and be responsible for its
6 economical, efficient and effective administration;
- 7 (d) Whenever necessary be designated to serve as deputy to the Secretary in all
8 matters relating to the operations of the department; the designated
9 Undersecretary will temporarily discharge the duties of the Secretary in the
10 latter's absence or inability to discharge his or her duties for any cause or in case
11 of vacancy of the said office, unless otherwise provided by law; the President
12 of the Philippines shall likewise make the temporary designation of Acting
13 Secretary to the same; and
- 14 (e) Perform such other functions and duties as may be provided by law.
- 15

16 **SEC. 10. *Assistant Secretaries.*** Each Undersecretary shall be assisted by an Assistant
17 Secretary shall be career officers and shall perform duties assigned by the Undersecretaries,
18 who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the
19 Secretary.

20

21 **SEC. 11. *Qualifications.*** No person shall be appointed Secretary, Undersecretary, or
22 Assistant Secretary of the Department unless he or she is a citizen and resident of the
23 Philippines, of good moral character, and of proven integrity, and with at least seven (7) years
24 of competence/ expertise/ experience as manager, advocate, scholar or practitioner in fields of
25 endeavor related to Philippine culture and the mandate and functions of the Department.

26

27 **ARTICLE III**

28 **THE DEPARTMENT SERVICES**

29 **SEC. 12. *Department Services.*** —The Department of Culture shall have services which
30 shall include the General Administrative Service, Financial Management Service, Policy and
31 Planning Service, Legal Affairs Service, Physical Facilities Management Service, Human
32 Resources Development Service, Strategic Communications and Initiatives Service,
33 Knowledge and Information Systems, Project Evaluation and Monitoring Service, Foreign-

1 Assisted and Special Projects Service, Internal Audit Service, Endowment Management
2 Service, Grants Management Service.

3
4 **ARTICLE IV**
5 **THE BUREAUS**
6

7 **SEC. 13. *The Bureaus of the Department***—The Department shall exercise supervision
8 and control over the following four (6) Bureaus which are created under it:

- 9 (a) Bureau of Cultural Communities and Traditional Arts Development – shall
10 formulate and implement plans, programs and activities for the development of
11 the different cultural communities all over the country, ensure the preservation
12 and dissemination of the country's diverse cultures, establish schools' institutes
13 for living traditions, encourage the continued practice and development of
14 traditional arts and crafts, document the Indigenous Knowledge Systems and
15 Practices (IKSP), and cause the recognition of outstanding traditional artists.
- 16 (b) Bureau of Cultural Properties Protection and Regulation – shall be in charge of
17 the registration and documentation of the nation's historical and cultural
18 properties, issue permits and licenses, conduct inspection and assessment on
19 cultural properties, implement Disaster Risk Reduction program for the cultural
20 assets, enforce laws on cultural heritage conservation and intellectual property
21 protection for artists and cultural experts.
- 22 (c) Bureau of Cultural Properties Preservation – shall formulate and implement
23 plans, programs, and activities for the preservation of tangible and intangible
24 cultural heritage, provide architectural, engineering, scientific and conservation
25 laboratory services, provide support to monuments and sites, museums and
26 galleries and libraries and archives all over the country and establish a National
27 Institute of Heritage Conservation.
- 28 (d) Bureau of Artistic Resources – shall ensure the continuing and balance
29 development of the nation's artistic heritage in its various forms; performing
30 arts, film and media arts, visual arts, architecture and allied arts and literature,
31 provide support to regional and local culture and arts centers, performing arts
32 and exhibition venues, ensure the welfare of artists and cultural workers,
33 undertake human resource development programs for artists, and establish the

1 National Academy for Culture and Arts and National Institute for Culture and
2 Arts Management.

3 (e) Bureau of Cultural Research, Education and Dissemination – shall undertake
4 cultural research for policy and program development, publish cultural
5 materials, especially on positive Filipino values for dissemination, manage the
6 cultural education program for country, ensure the development and promotion
7 of Philippine languages, implement national translation program, and
8 implement national promotion program in various forms of media.

9 (f) Bureau of Cultural and Creative Industries – shall formulate plans and programs
10 to ignite the innovative and entrepreneurial mindset of Filipino artists and
11 establish industries in the various genre of arts, performing arts, cinema, books
12 and publications, creative designs, culinary and lifestyle and architecture and
13 allied arts, and others.

14 Each Bureau shall be headed by a Bureau Director, who shall be assisted by one (1)
15 Assistant Bureau Director. The Bureau Director and Assistant Bureau Director shall be
16 appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Secretary.

17
18 **SEC. 14. Powers and Duties of Bureau Director.** —The Bureau Director shall be its
19 chief executive officer. He shall exercise overall authority in matters within the jurisdiction of
20 the bureau, including those relating to its operations, and enforce all laws and regulations
21 pertaining to it. Shall appoint personnel to all positions in his bureau or office, in accordance
22 with law. In the case of the line bureau or office, the head shall also appoint the second level
23 personnel of the regional offices, unless such power has been delegated. He shall have the
24 authority to discipline employees in accordance with the Civil Service Law.

25
26 **ARTICLE V**
27 **THE REGIONAL AND FIELD OFFICES**
28

29 **SEC. 15. Regional Offices of the Department.** The Department is hereby authorized
30 to establish, operate and maintain a Regional Office, whenever appropriate, in each of the
31 administrative regions of the country. Each regional office shall be headed by a Regional
32 Director, who may be assisted by one (1) Assistant Regional Director. The Regional Director
33 and Assistant Regional Director shall be appointed by the President upon the recommendation
34 of the Secretary: Provided, that they shall be persons recognized as an accomplished manager,

1 advocate, scholar or practitioner in fields of endeavor related to Philippine culture in the region,
2 or any suitably qualified person in accordance with Civil Service Commission (CSC) rules and
3 regulations.

4 It may also establish satellite, extension or field offices when and wherever necessary,
5 particularly in locations where significant cultural and heritage properties and concerns are
6 identified to exist, and to support the operations, programs and projects of its attached and other
7 concerned agencies and institutions.

8 A regional office shall have, within its administrative region, the following functions:

- 9 (a) Implement laws, policies, plans, programs, rules and regulations of the
10 department or agency in the regional area;
11 (b) Provide economical, efficient and effective service to the people in the area;
12 (c) Undertake research and gather data on local culture and arts trends and other
13 relevant cultural and artistic information;
14 (d) Cause to establish and oversee the regional and local culture and arts councils
15 (as far as the city and municipal level) to engage participation of local artists
16 and cultural workers;
17 (e) Coordinate with regional offices of other departments, bureaus and agencies in
18 the area;
19 (f) Coordinate with local government units in the area;
20 (g) Make recommendations to the Secretary on all matters relating to culture and
21 arts in the region; and,
22 (h) Perform such other functions as may be provided by law.

23
24 **SEC. 16. Duties of a Regional Director.** —The Regional Director shall perform duties
25 and functions as may be provided by law or further delegated by the head of agency or other
26 proper authorities concerned.

27 28 **ARTICLE VI**

29 **THE ATTACHED AGENCIES, INSTITUTES, ADVISORY COUNCIL,** 30 **OVERSEAS OFFICES**

31
32 **SEC. 17. The Attached Agencies.**

(a) The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) is hereby abolished, and their powers and functions, applicable funds and appropriations, records, equipment, property, and personnel transferred to the Department.

(b) The following agencies are hereby attached to the Department for policy and program coordination, and shall continue to operate and function in accordance with the charters, laws or orders creating them, insofar as they are not inconsistent with this act.

1. Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP)
2. National Museum of the Philippines (NMP)
3. National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP)
4. National Library of the Philippines (NLP)
5. National Archives of the Philippines (NAP)
6. Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF)
7. Intramuros Administration (IA)
8. National Parks Development Committee (NPDC)
9. Nayong Pilipino Foundation (NPF)
10. Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP)
11. National Book Development Board (NBDB)
12. Design Center of the Philippines

(c) The laws and rules on government reorganization as provided for in Republic Act No. 6566, otherwise known as the Reorganization Law, shall govern the organization process of the Department.

SEC. 18. *National Institutes.* The following National Institutes, with their respective networks throughout the country, shall be established under the Department:

(a) The National Institute of Living Traditions, and through it, a network of individual Schools of Living Traditions to be established, which, with the support of appropriate partnerships, shall be responsible for programs and projects related to the safeguarding, sustainability, propagation and intergenerational transmission of intangible cultural heritage, particularly that which pertains to indigenous cultural communities;

(b) The National Institute of Cultural Heritage Preservation, and through it, a network of individual Escuela Talyer (Workshop Schools) to be established, which, with the support of appropriate partnerships, shall be responsible for

programs and projects related to national capacity building in the area of conservation arts, sciences and trades with respect to the preservation of immovable and movable cultural property and with a particular focus on vocational training for youth; and

- (c) The National Institute of Culture and Arts Management, and through it, a network of individual Culture and Arts Management Training Centers to be established, which, with the support of appropriate partnerships, shall be responsible for programs and projects related to the education, training and certification of cultural officers and personnel as a necessary qualification for employment and promotion in the National Government and in local governments where such might be required by the Department in coordination with the Civil Service Commission and the Career Executive Service Board, at the career sub-professional, career professional, and career executive levels, to include appropriate courses and programs towards certificates, diplomas, and undergraduate and graduate degrees;

SEC. 19. *National Academy of Culture and Arts.* There is hereby established under the Department a National Academy of Culture and Arts, which shall be an institutionalized association of the nation's foremost leaders and exponents of culture and arts, the primary purpose of which is to support the mandate of the Department as an independent body of eminent persons. The President of the Philippines shall be the Honorary Patron of the National Academy of Culture and Arts.

The structure and organization of the Academy, including the specification of its functions, procedures as to its governance and the selection of its members, and the composition of its secretariat, shall be contained in a charter to be formulated by the Department and promulgated by the President of the Philippines through an Executive Order within one (1) year of the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 20. *Culture and Arts Advisory Councils.* The Department shall facilitate the creation of a National Culture and Arts Advisory Council, a Regional Culture and Arts Advisory Council, and, a Local Culture and Arts Advisory Council, to assist the Department in the implementation of culture and arts initiatives.

1 **SEC. 21. Sectoral and Industry Task Forces.** The Department may create a sectoral
2 and industry task forces, technical working groups, advisory bodies or committees for the
3 furtherance of its objectives. Additional private sector representatives, such as from the
4 academe, CSOs, and federation of private industries directly involved in culture and the arts as
5 well as representatives of other LGUs, and GOCCs may be appointed to these working groups.

6 **SEC. 22. Rizal Centers.** — The Department shall, through a dedicated organizational
7 unit to be established for the purpose, establish and manage centers, to be known as Rizal
8 Centers or Sentro Rizal, overseas, the primary purpose of which shall be the promotion of, and
9 the facilitation of access by the constituency of each center to, Philippine culture generally as
10 well as the cultural resources managed by the Department and its attached agencies in
11 particular.

12 Domestically, the Department shall establish Sentro Rizal as regional cultural centers
13 and hubs, to be supervised and operated appropriately through its regional offices. Such
14 regional centers shall include exhibition and performance venues, and facilities enabling access
15 to knowledge resources, particularly those pertaining to vernacular language resources.

16 Overseas, the Department shall establish Sentro Rizal as Philippine cultural centers in
17 key places for the benefit of the global diaspora of Philippine citizens, the global community
18 of Filipino migrants or descendants thereof, and all who are interested in Philippine culture.
19 The Department for this purpose shall coordinate with the Department of Foreign Affairs, the
20 Commission on Filipinos Overseas, and other concerned agencies.

21 Such Sentro Rizal as may be established overseas shall have a dedicated budget and
22 staff under the Department and be considered as overseas offices thereof, shall function as
23 repositories of Philippine cultural resources, shall carry out active programs and projects to
24 engage their respective constituencies, and shall offer courses in the national language and any
25 other Filipino languages as may appropriate.

26 The operations of the Sentro Rizal network of the Department, overseas, shall be
27 considered as one its permanent flagship programs, and shall therefore be specifically provided
28 for in the General Appropriations Act for every fiscal year.

29 Article XII, including Sections 42 to 47, of Republic Act No. 10066 is hereby repealed.

30
31 **SEC. 23. Overseas Offices.** The Department shall establish overseas offices whenever
32 necessary to:

- 33 a) Implement plans, programs and projects of the Department relative to
34 communities of Philippine citizens abroad;

- 1 b) Promote Filipino culture to the international community;
2 c) Coordinate with international organizations as well as with the overseas offices
3 of other departments, offices and agencies of the Philippine government; and
4 d) Perform such other functions as may be provided by law.

5
6 **ARTICLE VII**
7 **REORGANIZATION**

8
9 **SEC. 24. *Reorganization.*** The laws and rules on government reorganization as
10 provided for in Republic Act No. 6656, otherwise known as the Reorganization Law, shall
11 govern the reorganization process of the Department and, where appropriate, its attached
12 agencies.

13
14 **SEC. 25. *Structure and Staffing Pattern.*** Subject to the approval of the Department of
15 Budget and Management (DBM), the Department and, where appropriate, its attached
16 agencies, shall determine its organizational structure and create new divisions or units as it may
17 deem necessary, and shall appoint officers and employees of the Department and its attached
18 agencies in accordance with the Civil Service Law, rules, and regulations.

19
20 **SEC. 26. *Transition Period.*** The transfer of functions, assets, funds, equipment,
21 properties, transactions, and personnel of affected agencies, and the formulation of the internal
22 organic structure, staffing pattern, operating system, and revised budget of the Department,
23 shall be completed within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, during which time,
24 the existing personnel shall continue to assume their posts in holdover capacities until new
25 appointments are issued; Provided, that after the abolition of the agency, as specified in Section
26 17(a) of this Act, the Department, in coordination with the DBM, shall determine and create
27 new positions, the funding requirement of which shall not exceed the equivalent cost of
28 positions abolished.

29
30 **SEC. 27. *Separation from Service.*** Employees separated from the service as a result
31 of this reorganization shall, within ninety (90) days therefrom, receive the separation and
32 retirement benefits to which they may be entitled under Executive Order No. 366. Provided
33 that such separation pay and retirement benefits shall have priority of payment out of the
34 savings of the department or agency.

1
2
3 **ARTICLE VIII**
4 **PROPERTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT**

5 **SEC. 28. *Post Office Building and Liwasang Bonifacio.*** The Post Office Building,
6 currently the property of the Philippine Postal Corporation (PhilPost), and the area known as
7 Liwasang Bonifacio (formerly Plaza Lawton), both in the City of Manila, are hereby
8 appropriated for the exclusive use and central office premises of the Department of Culture and
9 its attached agencies.

10
11 **SEC. 29. *Other Properties.*** Real and movable properties owned by those agencies
12 abolished or absorbed into the Department under this Act, namely the National Commission
13 for Culture and the Arts Building and the Metropolitan Theatre, shall be transferred to the
14 Department.

15
16 **ARTICLE IX**
17 **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

18
19 **SEC. 30. *Appropriations.*** The amount needed for the initial implementation of this Act
20 shall be taken from the current fiscal year's appropriation for the NCCA through the Office of
21 the President, and other appropriations available for the purpose. Thereafter, the amount needed
22 for the operation and maintenance of the Department proper shall be included in the General
23 Appropriations Act, provided that for the next fiscal year, the amount shall be no less than Two
24 Billion Pesos (Php2,000,000,000.00).

25
26 **SEC. 31. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Office of the President, in
27 consultation with other government agencies mentioned in this Act, shall promulgate its
28 implementing rules and regulations within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act.

29
30 **SEC. 32. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations
31 and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed,
32 amended or modified accordingly.

1 **SEC. 33. *Separability Clause.*** If any provision of this Act shall be declared
2 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force
3 and effect.

4
5 **SEC. 34. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its
6 publication in at least two (2) papers of general circulation.

7
8 *Approved,*