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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1528

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(In substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 31 and 664)

Prepared jointly by the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture, Civil Service and Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation and Finance, with Senators Legarda, Binay, Aquino IV and Escudero as authors

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

*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 Act."

2  
3                                **ARTICLE I**  
4                                **DECLARATION OF POLICY**

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

- 7            a. To recognize that culture is a unifying, humanizing and modernizing  
8            agent/instrument of any society, and the patrimony and right of every citizen of the  
9            Philippines;
- 10           b. To recognize the vital role of culture in nation-building;
- 11           c. To incorporate considerations of culture in the formulation of appropriate and  
12           significant political and economic policy that will better serve Filipinos and ensure  
13           that all Filipinos enjoy full cultural rights, take full advantage of a dynamic cultural  
14           experience, and be inspired, sustained by, draw from, contribute to and celebrate the  
15           country's culture;
- 16           d. To create a national body which will develop, manage and be responsible for the  
17           implementation of policy, legislation and strategic direction for the protection,  
18           regulation, preservation, development, management, dissemination and promotion  
19           of the country's culture, relative to the immense national resources, patrimony and  
20           wealth engendered and amassed through countless generations and centuries of  
21           distinctive Filipino ways of life and experiences in specific natural and social  
22           environments that this represents, and to facilitate the convergence of various  
23           agencies with cultural mandates and rationalize their organizations and functions;
- 24           e. To foster, strengthen, and accelerate the convergence of various cultural offices  
25           agencies, and rationalize their organizations and functions;  
26  
27

- 1 f. To recognize that cultural education is the right of every citizen and therefore ensure  
2 that cultural literacy is inculcated in the development and education of all Filipinos;  
3 g. To promote the national language of the country while enhancing the linguistic  
4 diversity of the Philippines; and,  
5 h. To secure and improve the welfare of Filipino artists and cultural workers.  
6  
7

8 The Department shall continually review the state and needs of culture and arts in the  
9 context of the country's developmental goals.  
10

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

- 13 a. **"Art"** shall refer to the expression or application of human creative skill and  
14 imagination.  
15  
16 b. **"Conservation"** shall refer to all process and measures of maintaining the cultural  
17 significance of a cultural property, including but not limited to, preservation,  
18 restoration, reconstruction, protection, adaptive re-use or any combination thereof.  
19  
20 c. **"Cultural agencies"** shall refer to any of the following national government  
21 agencies with their specific areas of responsibility: National Museum of the  
22 Philippines (cultural property), the National Library of the Philippines (books),  
23 National Historical Commission of the Philippines (Philippine history), the National  
24 Archives of the Philippines (documents) the Cultural Center of the Philippines  
25 (culture and arts) and Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (language).  
26  
27 d. **"Cultural Education"** shall refer to the teaching and learning of cultural concepts  
28 and processes.  
29  
30 e. **"Cultural Heritage"** shall refer to the totality of cultural property preserved and  
31 developed through time and passed on to posterity.  
32  
33 f. **"Cultural Property"** shall refer to all products of human creativity by which people  
34 and nation reveal their identity, including architecture and sites or human activity  
35 [churches, mosques and other places of religious worship, schools] and natural  
36 history specimens and sites, whether public or privately owned, movable or  
37 immovable, and tangible or intangible.  
38  
39 g. **"Culture"** shall refer to the broad spectrum of people's beliefs, practices, customs  
40 and traditions, material culture, arts, and other forms of actual and symbolic  
41 expressions and representations which are handed down from one generation to the  
42 next in the process of interaction.  
43  
44 h. **"History"** shall refer to a written record of past events relating to Philippine history.  
45  
46 i. **"Indigenous Cultural Communities/ Indigenous Peoples"** shall refer to a group  
47 of people or homogenous societies identified by self-ascription and ascription by  
48 others, who have continuously lived as organized community on communally  
49 bounded and defined territory, and who have, under claims of ownership since time  
50 immemorial, occupied, possessed and utilized such territories, sharing common  
51 bonds of language, customs, traditions and other distinctive cultural traits, or who  
52 have, through resistance to political, social and cultural inroads of colonization,  
53 non-indigenous religions and cultures, became historically differentiated from the  
54 majority of Filipinos. ICCs/IPs shall likewise include peoples who are regarded as

1 indigenous on account of their descent from the populations which inhabited the  
2 country, at the time of conquest or colonization, or at the time of inroads of non-  
3 indigenous religions and cultures, or the establishment of present state boundaries,  
4 who retain some or all of their own social, economic, cultural and political  
5 institutions, but who may have been displaced from their traditional domains or who  
6 may have resettled outside their ancestral domains;

- 7  
8 j. **"Intangible Cultural Heritage"** shall refer to practices, representations,  
9 expressions, knowledge, skills, as well as instrument, objects and artifacts  
10 associated therewith, that communities, groups and individual recognize as part of  
11 their cultural heritage, such as: (1) oral traditions, usages, customs, languages and  
12 other expressions; (2) performing arts; (3) social practices, religious rites, rituals,  
13 culinary traditions, and festive events; (4) knowledge and practices concerning  
14 nature and the universe, worship and (5) traditional craftsmanship.

15  
16  
17 **ARTICLE II**  
18 **THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE**

19  
20 **SEC. 4. *Creation of the Department of Culture.*** There is hereby created the Department  
21 of Culture (*Kagawaran ng Kultura*), hereinafter referred to as the Department, which shall be  
22 the primary policy-formulating, planning, coordinating, implementing, and administrative entity  
23 of the executive branch of the National Government that will implement the pertinent  
24 provisions of the Constitution regarding culture and arts as well as the aforementioned policy of  
25 the State.

26  
27 The Department with its attached agencies shall be responsible for the protection,  
28 preservation, regulation, development, management, dissemination and promotion of the  
29 cultural, historical and artistic heritage and resources, tangible and intangible, of the Philippines  
30 and the Filipino people, all of which, with their physical and social contexts and environments,  
31 are understood as together constituting and pertaining to Philippine culture for purposes of this  
32 Act.

33  
34 The Department shall continually review the state and needs of culture and arts in the  
35 context of the country's developmental goals.

36  
37 **SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions.*** The Department shall exercise the following powers  
38 and functions:

- 39  
40 a. Formulate and implement national policies, plans, programs, and guidelines for the  
41 protection, preservation, regulation, development, management, dissemination and  
42 promotion of culture, to ensure overall consistency, effectiveness, efficiency, and  
43 conformity with the policies of the State articulated in the Constitution as well as in  
44 this Act and other pertinent laws and issuances;
- 45  
46 b. Assume and exercise all existing regulatory and quasi-judicial functions established  
47 under Republic Act No. 4846, or "*The Cultural Properties Preservation and*  
48 *Protection Act*," Presidential Decree No. 374, or "*Amending the Cultural Properties*  
49 *Preservation and Protection Act*," Presidential Decree No. 1616, or "*Creation of the*  
50 *Intramuros Administration*," Presidential Decree No. 1748, or "*An Act Amending the*  
51 *Charter of the Intramuros Administration*," Republic Act No. 8491, or "*The Flag*  
52 *and Heraldic Code of the Philippines*," Republic Act No. 9105, or "*Art and Forgery*  
53 *Act of 2001*," Republic Act No. 10066, or "*The National Cultural Heritage Act of*  
54 *2009*," and Republic Act No. 10086 or "*Strengthening Peoples' Nationalism*  
55 *Through Philippine History Act*," as well as such functions promulgated through  
56 executive issuances that pertain to the agencies of the National Government covered  
57 under this Act, which are all hereby transferred *in toto* to the Department from the

- 1 said agencies;
- 2
- 3 e. Be responsible for disaster risk reduction and management relative to culture and
- 4 cultural property, both through its own programs and projects as well as through the
- 5 National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and Regional Disaster
- 6 Risk Reduction and Management Councils, on which it shall have full membership,
- 7 representation and participation;
- 8
- 9 d. Recommend to the President of the Philippines the designation, through Presidential
- 10 Proclamation, with appropriate published guidelines pertaining thereto, of a cultural
- 11 property, whether immovable or movable, tangible or intangible, as a National
- 12 Cultural Monument, a category hereby established which incorporates the previously-
- 13 established legal definitions of, criteria pertaining to, and all cultural property
- 14 previously declared by authorized agencies as National Cultural Treasure, National
- 15 Historical Landmark, National Historical Shrine, National Historical Monument, and
- 16 National Historical Site;
- 17
- 18 e. Designate, through Department Order, and with appropriate published guidelines
- 19 pertaining thereto, cultural property, whether immovable or movable, tangible or
- 20 intangible, as National Cultural Property, a category hereby established which
- 21 incorporates the previously-established legal definitions of, criteria pertaining to, and
- 22 all cultural property previously declared by authorized agencies as Important Cultural
- 23 Property and Heritage House;
- 24
- 25 f. Administer the qualification and selection, with appropriate published guidelines
- 26 pertaining thereto, of the Award for National Living Treasures (*Gawad ng Manlilikha*
- 27 *ng Bayan*), which is hereby renamed as the Order of National Living Treasures
- 28 (*Orden ng mga Pambansang Manlilikha ng Bayan*), and the Order of National Artists
- 29 (*Orden ng mga Pambansang Alagad ng Sining*), and recommend those nominees to
- 30 either Order who have been qualified and selected to the President of the Philippines
- 31 for proclamation as such and conferral of the same;
- 32
- 33 g. Undertake, through a National Institute of Culture and Arts Management and the
- 34 Institutes of Living Traditions to be established for the purpose, in an appropriate
- 35 partnership with the academic sector, the education, training and certification of
- 36 cultural officers and personnel as a necessary qualification for employment and
- 37 promotion in the National Government and in local governments where such might
- 38 be required by the Department in coordination with the Civil Service Commission
- 39 and the Career Executive Service Board, at the career sub-professional, career
- 40 professional, and career executive levels, to include appropriate courses and programs
- 41 towards certificates, diplomas, and undergraduate and graduate degrees;
- 42
- 43 h. Administer the qualification, selection and conferral of such other awards as it may
- 44 establish in support of its mandate;
- 45
- 46 i. Support the development of the cultural, artistic and creative industries of the
- 47 country, in all particulars and at all levels;
- 48
- 49 j. Administer the endowment funds established separately under Section 20 of Republic
- 50 Act No. 7356, *The Law Creating the National Commission for Culture and the Arts;*
- 51 and Section 50 of Republic Act No. 10066, which are herein consolidated into a
- 52 single National Endowment Fund for Culture and Arts (NEFCA) that shall continue
- 53 to be sourced and augmented as provided by the aforementioned provisions, and
- 54 provide financial support from this fund for various national programs through a
- 55 system of grants drawing from the proceeds, including both principal and interest, of
- 56 the same, subject to the approval of the Department of Budget and Management.
- 57

- 1 k. Represent the Philippines in matters pertaining to culture in overseas regional and  
2 international organizations and events.  
3  
4 l. Other powers and functions as may be created, assigned or transferred by the  
5 President of the Philippines in accordance with law.  
6

7 **SEC. 6. Composition.** The Department proper shall include the Office of the Secretary  
8 and the staff units directly under it, including the Services established herein. The Office of the  
9 Secretary shall consist of the Secretary, at least three (3) Undersecretaries, and at least five (5)  
10 Assistant Secretaries, together with the personnel in their immediate offices.  
11

12 **SEC. 7. Secretary of Culture.** The authority and responsibility for the exercise of the  
13 mandate of the Department and for the discharge of its powers and functions shall be vested in  
14 the Secretary, who shall have supervision and control of the Department and shall be appointed  
15 by the President of the Philippines, subject to the confirmation by the Commission on  
16 Appointments.  
17

18 **SEC. 8. Powers and Functions of the Secretary.** —The Secretary shall have the  
19 following powers and functions:  
20

- 21 a. Provide executive direction and supervision over the entire operations of the  
22 Department and exercise administrative supervision over its attached agencies;  
23  
24 b. Establish policies and standards for the effective, efficient and economical operation  
25 of the Department, in accordance with the programs of government;  
26  
27 c. Promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out department mandates,  
28 objectives, policies, functions, plans, programs and projects;  
29  
30 d. Promulgate administrative issuances necessary for the efficient administration of the  
31 offices under the Secretary and for proper execution of the laws relative thereto.  
32 These issuances shall not prescribe penalties for their violation, except when  
33 expressly authorized by law;  
34  
35 e. Rationalize delivery systems necessary for the effective attainment of the objectives  
36 of the Department, in accordance with the programs of Government;  
37  
38 f. Appoint all officers and employees of the Department except those whose  
39 appointments are vested in the President or in some other appointing authority and  
40 shall appoint employees to positions in the second level in the regional offices as  
41 defined in this Act and in accordance with the Civil Service laws, rules and  
42 regulations;  
43  
44 g. Exercise disciplinary powers over officers and employees under the Secretary in  
45 accordance with law, including their investigation and the designation of a  
46 committee or officer to conduct such investigation;  
47  
48 h. Sit on the governing boards of attached agencies as provided in this Act, as well as  
49 any other agencies or organizations as may be appropriate or designated;  
50  
51 i. Coordinate with local governments, other agencies and public and private interests'  
52 groups, including non-government organizations (NGOs) and people's  
53 organizations (POs) on Department policies and initiatives;  
54  
55 j. Advise the President of the Philippines and make recommendations on the  
56 promulgation of executive and administrative orders and regulatory and legislative  
57 proposals on matters pertaining to culture;

- 1 k. Formulate and enforce a system of measuring and evaluating periodically and  
2 objectively the performance of the Department and submit the same annually to the  
3 President;
- 4
- 5 l. Prepare and submit to the President through the Department of Budget and  
6 Management an estimate of the necessary expenditures of the department during the  
7 next fiscal year, on the basis of the reports and estimates submitted by bureaus and  
8 officers under the Department;
- 9
- 10 m. Exercise jurisdiction over all bureaus, offices, agencies and corporations under the  
11 Department as are provided by law; and,
- 12
- 13 n. Performs such other functions as may be provided by law or assigned by the  
14 President of the Republic of the Philippines.
- 15

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

- 20 a. Advise and assist the Secretary in the formulation and implementation of  
21 department objectives and policies;
- 22
- 23 b. Oversee all the operational activities of the bureau or units for which he shall be  
24 responsible as assigned by the Secretary;
- 25
- 26 c. Coordinate the programs and projects of the same and be responsible for its  
27 economical, efficient and effective administration;
- 28
- 29 d. Whenever necessary be designated to serve as deputy to the Secretary in all matters  
30 relating to the operations of the department; the designated Undersecretary will  
31 temporarily discharge the duties of the Secretary in the latter's absence or inability  
32 to discharge his or her duties for any cause or in case of vacancy of the said office,  
33 unless otherwise provided by law; the President of the Philippines shall likewise  
34 make the temporary designation of Acting Secretary to the same; and
- 35
- 36 e. Perform such other functions and duties as may be provided by law.
- 37
- 38

39 **SEC. 10. *Assistant Secretaries.*** The Secretary shall be assisted by at five (5) Assistant  
40 Secretaries, who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the  
41 recommendation of the Secretary, at least three (3) of whom shall be career officers. The  
42 Assistant Secretaries shall be in charge of specific areas of responsibility as may be established  
43 by the Secretary.

44

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

50

51 **ARTICLE III**  
52 **THE DEPARTMENT SERVICES**  
53

54 **SEC. 12. *Department Services.***—The Department of Culture shall have services which  
55 shall include the General Administrative Service, Financial Management Service, Policy and

1 Planning Service, Legal Affairs Service, Physical Facilities Management Service, Human  
2 Resources Development Service, Strategic Communications and Initiatives Service,  
3 Knowledge and Information Systems, Project Evaluation and Monitoring Service, Foreign-  
4 Assisted and Special Projects Service, Internal Audit Service, Endowment Management  
5 Service, Grants Management Service;  
6

7  
8 **ARTICLE IV**  
9 **THE BUREAUS**

10 **SEC. 13. *The Bureaus of the Department***—The Department shall exercise supervision  
11 and control over the following six (6) Bureaus which are created under it:  
12

- 13 a. ***Bureau of Cultural Communities and Traditional Arts Development*** – shall  
14 formulate and implement plans, programs and activities for the development of the  
15 different cultural communities all over the country, ensure the preservation and  
16 dissemination of the country's diverse cultures, establish schools/ institutes for  
17 living traditions, encourage the continued practice and development of traditional  
18 arts and crafts, document the Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP),  
19 and cause the recognition of outstanding traditional artists.  
20
- 21 b. ***Bureau of Cultural Properties Protection and Regulation*** – shall be in-charge of  
22 the registration and documentation of the nation's historical and cultural properties,  
23 issue permits and licenses, conduct inspection and assessment on cultural properties,  
24 implement Disaster Risk Reduction program for the cultural assets, enforce laws on  
25 cultural heritage conservation and intellectual property protection for artists and  
26 cultural experts.  
27
- 28 c. ***Bureau of Cultural Properties Preservation*** – shall formulate and implement plans,  
29 programs, and activities for the preservation of tangible and intangible cultural  
30 heritage, provide architectural, engineering, scientific and conservation laboratory  
31 services, provide support to monuments and sites, museums and galleries and  
32 libraries and archives all over the country and establish a National Institute of  
33 Heritage Conservation.  
34
- 35 d. ***Bureau of Artistic Resources Development*** – shall ensure the continuing and  
36 balance development of the nation's artistic heritage in its various forms;  
37 performing arts, film and media arts, visual arts, architecture and allied arts and  
38 literature, provide support to regional and local culture and arts centers, performing  
39 arts and exhibition venues, ensure the welfare of artists and cultural workers,  
40 undertake human resource development programs for artists, and establish the  
41 National Academy for Culture and Arts and National Institute for Culture and Arts  
42 Management.  
43
- 44 e. ***Bureau of Cultural Research, Education and Dissemination*** – shall undertake  
45 cultural research for policy and program development, publish cultural materials,  
46 especially on positive Filipino values for dissemination, manage the cultural  
47 education program for the country, ensure the development and promotion of  
48 Philippine languages, implement national translation program, and implement  
49 national promotion program in various forms of media.  
50
- 51 f. ***Bureau of Cultural and Creative Industries*** – shall formulate plans and programs  
52 to ignite the innovative and entrepreneurial mindset of Filipino artists and establish  
53 industries in the various genre of arts; performing arts, cinema, books and  
54 publications, creative designs, culinary and lifestyle and architecture and allied arts,  
55 and others.  
56

57 Each Bureau shall be headed by a Bureau Director, who shall be assisted by one (1)

1 Assistant Bureau Director. The Bureau Director and Assistant Bureau Director shall be  
2 appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Secretary.  
3  
4

5 **SEC. 14. Powers and Duties of Bureau Director.** —The Bureau Director shall be its  
6 chief executive officer. He shall exercise overall authority in matters within the jurisdiction of  
7 the bureau, including those relating to its operations, and enforce all laws and regulations  
8 pertaining to it. Shall appoint personnel to all positions in his bureau or office, in accordance  
9 with law. In the case of the line bureau or office, the head shall also appoint the second level  
10 personnel of the regional offices, unless such power has been delegated. He shall have the  
11 authority to discipline employees in accordance with the Civil Service Law.  
12  
13  
14

## 15 **ARTICLE V** 16 **THE REGIONAL AND FIELD OFFICES** 17

18 **SEC. 15. Regional Offices of the Department.** The Department is hereby authorized to  
19 establish, operate and maintain a Regional Office, whenever appropriate, in each of the  
20 administrative regions of the country. Each regional office shall be headed by a Regional  
21 Director, who may be assisted by one (1) Assistant Regional Director. The Regional Director  
22 and Assistant Regional Director shall be appointed by the President upon the recommendation  
23 of the Secretary: Provided, That they shall be persons recognized as an accomplished manager,  
24 advocate, scholar or practitioner in fields of endeavor related to Philippine culture in the  
25 region, or any suitably qualified person in accordance with Civil Service Commission (CSC)  
26 rules and regulations.  
27

28 It may also establish satellite, extension or field offices when and wherever necessary,  
29 particularly in locations where significant cultural and heritage properties and concerns are  
30 identified to exist, and to support the operations, programs and projects of its attached and  
31 other concerned agencies and institutions. A regional office shall have, within its  
32 administrative region, the following functions:  
33

- 34 a. Implement laws, policies, plans, programs, rules and regulations of the department  
35 or agency in the regional area;
- 36  
37 b. Provide economical, efficient and effective service to the people in the area;
- 38  
39 c. Undertake research and gather data on local culture and arts trends and other  
40 relevant cultural and artistic information;
- 41  
42 d. Cause to establish and oversee the regional and local culture and arts councils (as  
43 far as the city and municipal level) to engage participation of local artists and  
44 cultural workers;
- 45  
46 e. Coordinate with regional offices of other departments, bureaus and agencies in the  
47 area;
- 48  
49 f. Coordinate with local government units in the area;
- 50  
51 g. Make recommendations to the Secretary on all matters relating to culture and arts in  
52 the region; and,
- 53  
54 h. Perform such other functions as may be provided by law.  
55  
56



1           **SEC. 16. *Duties of a Regional Director.*** —The Regional Director shall perform duties  
2 and functions as may be provided by law or further delegated by the head of agency or other  
3 proper authorities concerned.  
4

5  
6   **ARTICLE VI**  
7           **THE ATTACHED AGENCIES, INSTITUTES, ADVISORY COUNCIL, OVERSEAS**  
8   **OFFICES**  
9

10           **SEC. 17. *The Attached Agencies.***

- 11 a. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) is hereby abolished,  
12 and their powers and functions, applicable funds and appropriations, records,  
13 equipment, property, and personnel transferred to the Department.  
14  
15 b. The following agencies are hereby attached to the Department for policy and  
16 program coordination, and shall continue to operate and function in accordance with  
17 the charters, laws or orders creating them, insofar as they are not inconsistent with  
18 this act.  
19  
20           1. Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP)  
21           2. National Museum of the Philippines (NMP)  
22           3. National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP)  
23           4. National Library of the Philippines (NLP)  
24           5. National Archives of the Philippines (NAP)  
25           6. Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF)  
26           7. Intramuros Administration (IA)  
27           8. National Parks Development Committee (NPDC)  
28           9. Nayong Pilipino Foundation (NPF)  
29           10. Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP)  
30           11. National Book Development Board (NBDB)  
31           12. Design Center of the Philippines  
32  
33 c. The laws and rules on government reorganization as provided for in Republic Act  
34 No. 6566, otherwise known as the Reorganization Law, shall govern the  
35 organization process of the Department.  
36

37           **SEC. 18. *National Institutes.*** The following National Institutes, with their respective  
38 networks throughout the country, shall be established under the Department.  
39

- 40 a. The National Institute of Living Traditions, and through it, a network of individual  
41 Schools of Living Traditions to be established, which, with the support of  
42 appropriate partnerships, shall be responsible for programs and projects related to the  
43 safeguarding, sustainability, propagation and intergenerational transmission of  
44 intangible cultural heritage, particularly that which pertains to indigenous cultural  
45 communities;  
46  
47 b. The National Institute of Cultural Heritage Preservation, and through it, a network of  
48 individual *Eskwela Talver* (Workshop Schools) to be established, which, with the  
49 support of appropriate partnerships, shall be responsible for programs and projects  
50 related to national capacity building in the area of conservation arts, sciences and  
51 trades with respect to the preservation of immovable and movable cultural property  
52 and with a particular focus on vocational training for youth; and  
53  
54 c. The National Institute of Culture and Arts Management, and through it, a network of  
55 individual Culture and Arts Management Training Centers to be established, which,  
56 with the support of appropriate partnerships, shall be responsible for programs and

1 projects related to the education, training and certification of cultural officers and  
2 personnel as a necessary qualification for employment and promotion in the National  
3 Government and in local governments where such might be required by the  
4 Department in coordination with the Civil Service Commission and the Career  
5 Executive Service Board, at the career sub-professional, career professional, and  
6 career executive levels, to include appropriate courses and programs towards  
7 certificates, diplomas, and undergraduate and graduate degrees;  
8  
9

10 **SEC. 19. National Academy of Culture and Arts.** There is hereby established under the  
11 Department a National Academy of Culture and Arts, which shall be an institutionalized  
12 association of the nation's foremost leaders and exponents of culture and arts, the primary  
13 purpose of which is to support the mandate of the Department as an independent body of  
14 eminent persons. The President of the Philippines shall be the Honorary Patron of the National  
15 Academy of Culture and Arts.  
16

17 The structure and organization of the Academy, including the specification of its  
18 functions, procedures as to its governance and the selection of its members, and the  
19 composition of its secretariat, shall be contained in a charter to be formulated by the  
20 Department and promulgated by the President of the Philippines through an Executive Order  
21 within one (1) year of the effectivity of this Act.  
22

23 **SEC. 20. Culture and Arts Advisory Councils.** The Department shall facilitate the  
24 creation of a National Culture and Arts Advisory Council, a Regional Culture and Arts  
25 Advisory Council, and, a Local Culture and Arts Advisory Council, to assist the Department in  
26 the implementation of culture and arts initiatives.  
27

28 **SEC. 21. Sectoral and Industry Task Forces.** The Department may create a sectoral  
29 and industry task forces, technical working groups, advisory bodies or committees for the  
30 furtherance of its objectives. Additional private sector representatives, such as from the  
31 academe, CSOs, and federation of private industries directly involved in culture and the arts as  
32 well as representatives of other LGUs, and GOCCs may be appointed to these working groups.  
33

34 **SEC. 22. Rizal Centers.** — The Department shall, through a dedicated organizational  
35 unit to be established for the purpose, establish and manage centers, to be known as Rizal  
36 Centers or *Sentro Rizal*, throughout the country and overseas, the primary purpose of which  
37 shall be the promotion of, and the facilitation of access by the constituency of each center to,  
38 Philippine culture generally as well as the cultural resources managed by the Department and  
39 its attached agencies in particular.  
40

41 Domestically, the Department shall establish *Sentro Rizal* as regional cultural centers  
42 and hubs, to be supervised and operated appropriately through its regional offices. Such  
43 regional centers shall include exhibition and performance venues, and facilities enabling access  
44 to knowledge resources, particularly those pertaining to vernacular language resources.  
45

46 Overseas, the Department shall establish *Sentro Rizal* as Philippine cultural centers in  
47 key places for the benefit of the global diaspora of Philippine citizens, the global community of  
48 Filipino migrants or descendants thereof, and all who are interested in Philippine culture. The  
49 Department for this purpose shall coordinate with the Department of Foreign Affairs, the  
50 Commission on Filipinos Overseas, and other concerned agencies.  
51

52 Such *Sentro Rizal* as may be established overseas shall have a dedicated budget and staff  
53 under the Department and be considered as overseas offices thereof, shall function as  
54 repositories of Philippine cultural resources, shall carry out active programs and projects to  
55 engage their respective constituencies, and shall offer courses in the national language and any  
56 other Filipino languages as may appropriate.  
57

1 The operations of the *Sentro Rizal* network of the Department, both domestically and  
2 overseas, shall be considered as one its permanent flagship programs, and shall therefore be  
3 specifically provided for in the General Appropriations Act for every fiscal year.  
4

5 Article XII, including Sections 42 to 47, of Republic Act No. 10066 is hereby repealed.  
6  
7

8 **SEC. 23. Overseas Offices.** The Department shall establish overseas offices whenever  
9 necessary to:  
10

- 11 a. Implement plans, programs and projects of the Department relative to communities  
12 of Philippine citizens abroad;
- 13 b. Promote Filipino culture to the international community;
- 14 c. Coordinate with international organizations as well as with the overseas offices of  
15 other departments, offices and agencies of the Philippine government; and
- 16 d. Perform such other functions as may be provided by law.  
17  
18  
19  
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21

## 22 ARTICLE V 23 REORGANIZATION

24  
25 **SEC. 24. Reorganization.** The laws and rules on government reorganization as provided  
26 for in Republic Act No. 6656, otherwise known as the Reorganization Law, shall govern the  
27 reorganization process of the Department and, where appropriate, its attached agencies.  
28

29 **SEC. 25. Structure and Staffing Pattern.** Subject to the approval of the Department of  
30 Budget and Management (DBM), the Department and, where appropriate, its attached  
31 agencies, shall determine its organizational structure and create new divisions or units as it  
32 may deem necessary, and shall appoint officers and employees of the Department and its  
33 attached agencies in accordance with the Civil Service Law, rules, and regulations.  
34

35 **SEC. 26. Transition Period.** The transfer of functions, assets, funds, equipment,  
36 properties, transactions, and personnel of affected agencies, and the formulation of the internal  
37 organic structure, staffing pattern, operating system, and revised budget of the Department,  
38 shall be completed within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, during which time,  
39 the existing personnel shall continue to assume their posts in holdover capacities until new  
40 appointments are issued; *Provided*, that after the abolition of the agency, as specified in  
41 Section 16(a) of this Act, the Department, in coordination with the DBM, shall determine and  
42 create new positions, the funding requirement of which shall not exceed the equivalent cost of  
43 positions abolished.  
44

45 **SEC. 27. Separation from Service.** Employees separated from the service as a result of  
46 this reorganization shall, within ninety (90) days therefrom, receive the separation and  
47 retirement benefits to which they may be entitled under Executive Order No. 366. Provided  
48 that such separation pay and retirement benefits shall have priority of payment out of the  
49 savings of the department or agency.  
50

## 51 ARTICLE VI 52 PROPERTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT

53  
54 **SEC. 28. Post Office Building and Liwasang Bonifacio.** The Post Office Building,  
55 currently the property of the Philippine Postal Corporation (PhilPost), and the area known as  
56 Liwasang Bonifacio (formerly Plaza Lawton), both in the City of Manila, are hereby

1 appropriated for the exclusive use and central office premises of the Department of Culture and  
2 its attached agencies.

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

7  
8 **ARTICLE VII**  
9 **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

10  
11 **SEC. 30. *Appropriations.*** The amount needed for the initial implementation of this Act  
12 shall be taken from the current fiscal year's appropriation for the NCCA through the Office of  
13 the President, and other appropriations available for the purpose. Thereafter, the amount  
14 needed for the operation and maintenance of the Department proper shall be included in the  
15 General Appropriations Act, provided that for the next fiscal year, the amount shall be no less  
16 than Two Billion Pesos (PHP2,000,000,000.00).

17  
18 **SEC. 31. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Office of the President, in  
19 consultation with other government agencies mentioned in this Act, shall promulgate its  
20 implementing rules and regulations within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act.

21  
22 **SEC. 32. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations  
23 and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed,  
24 amended or modified accordingly.

25  
26 **SEC. 33. *Separability Clause.*** If any provision of this Act shall be declared  
27 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full  
28 force and effect.

29  
30 **SEC. 34. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its  
31 publication in at least two (2) papers of general circulation.

32  
33 *Approved.*