

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



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2648

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Introduced by Rep. Christopher P. De Venecia

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

UNESCO defines intangible cultural heritage as “practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, and skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artifacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage.” This definition best exemplifies the concept of living traditions: intangible cultural heritage handed down from generation to generation.

There is no doubt that the Philippine archipelago is rich in living traditions. We are a country comprised of over 175 ethnolinguistic groups. Each of these groups has its own culture and way of life, from ritual vessels to hunting tools, textiles to pottery, and epic poetry to rhythmic dances. This multitude of groups and cultures has been existing since time immemorial and it has become definitive of our collective Filipino culture. More than just being the way of life our ancestors, these living traditions are an expression of their identity and of ours – an identity worth preserving and protecting.

Throughout different periods in Philippine history, there have been many threats to the integrity of this Filipino cultural identity and unity. Foreign colonizers have greatly influenced the modern Filipino’s way of life, injecting Spanish and American elements into our culture. Even after Philippine liberation from colonial rule, internal political struggles have fragmented Filipino society into different factions, thus weakening our national unity. Even global modernization and Western material consumerism has permeated the psyche of the next generation, leaving the youth uninterested to learn and practice the unique traditions of our ancestors.

While influences from Western culture and of modernity have inevitably found their way into our own, the living traditions of our ancestors have remained relevant and resilient. However if we do not act soon, we run the risk of losing more of our intangible cultural heritage – we run the risk of losing more of ourselves. Now more than ever, Filipinos need a stronger sense of national identity. Now more than ever, there is an urgent need to go back to our roots and ensure the viability of our living traditions. It is high time that the cultural identity of our

country, rooted in our living traditions be given importance by the government and not be relegated to the fringes of our nation's development agenda.

In view the foregoing, I am re-filing this bill that was initially filed in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress. This version was pending before the Committee on Education and no action has been taken since then.



**REP. CHRISTOPHER DE VENECIA**  
Fourth District, Pangasinan

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

2648

House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by Rep. Christopher P. De Venecia

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE LINANGAN NG LIKHANG-BAYAN (INSTITUTE FOR LIVING TRADITIONS) TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION, PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY'S COMMUNAL TRADITIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10066 OR THE NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT OF 2009, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1.** Republic Act No. 10066, otherwise known as the "National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009" is hereby amended with the addition of a new Article after Section 47, in order to read as follows:

**ARTICLE XIII**  
**LINANGAN NG LIKHANG-BAYAN**

**SECTION 48. CREATION OF LINANGAN NG LIKHANG BAYAN (INSTITUTE FOR LIVING TRADITIONS).** – THERE IS HEREBY CREATED AND ESTABLISHED A LINANGAN NG LIKHANG-BAYAN (INSTITUTE FOR LIVING TRADITIONS) WHOSE MAIN PURPOSE IS TO SERVE AS AN IMPORTANT CENTER AND LABORATORY FOR THE PROTECTION, PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PHILIPPINE COMMUNAL TRADITIONS.

**SECTION 49. FUNCTION** – AS THE SOLE INSTITUTE FOR TECHNICAL, BASIC AND HIGHER EDUCATION, BOTH FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL, IT SHALL BE ATTACHED TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS (NCCA) FOR POLICY AND PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION WITH SOLE EMPHASIS ON THE TRADITIONAL AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS.

**SECTION 50. CONVERGENCE WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT ENTITIES AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS** – IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE LINANGAN NG



LIKhang-BAYAN INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS CORE COURSES AND AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION, THE NCCA SHALL WORK IN CLOSE COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, KOMISYON NG WIKANG FILIPNO, THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, THE NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs).

THE NCCA SHALL ENDEAVOR TO WORK WITH PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS IN THE FULFILLMENT OF ITS FUNCTION AS THE CENTER AND LABORATORY FOR PHILIPPINES COMMUNAL TRADITIONS.

**SECTION 51. MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOLS OF LIVING TRADITIONS AS AN ATTACHED OFFICE OF THE NCCA, THE INSTITUTE FOR LIVING TRADITIONS SHALL BE IN CHARGE IN THE CREATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SCHOOLS OF LIVING TRADITIONS.**

**SECTION 52. APPROPRIATIONS. – THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (P100,000,000.00) NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT SHALL BE APPROPRIATED IMMEDIATELY TO BE GENERATED FROM WHATEVER SOURCE THAT ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NATIONAL TREASURY.**

**SEC.2.** All succeeding sections after the insertion of the new provision are hereby numbered accordingly.

**SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.*** - If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared as unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

**SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, ordinances, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 5 *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,