

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 1080

Introduced by: **HON. "KUYA" JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There is an urgent need for us to ensure the preservation of our cultural heritage otherwise the future generations will not know their Filipino identity that makes them distinct from citizens of other nations. The current situation is not encouraging. The present generation is getting confused as to its Filipino identity since modern technology has brought into our daily lives' different traditions, practices and beliefs that we mistakenly assumed to be our very own but in fact belong to other countries.

Cultural heritage is important because it helps people connect with others who have similar backgrounds and provides a sense of unity and belonging. This is the reason why we know who are our fellow Filipinos even when we are abroad. Cultural heritage is made up of many things large and small. We can see it in the buildings, townscapes, and even in archaeological remains. Culture can be perceived through books, artifacts, objects, pictures, photographs, art, and oral tradition. Cultural heritage is in the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the religions we follow, and the skills we learn. Sometimes we can touch and see what makes up a culture; other times it is intangible.

Preservation of our cultural heritage is the main reason why Republic Act No. 8492, otherwise known as the National Museum Act of 1998, was passed into law. However, the said law failed to include traditional folk arts in the identification, collection and preservation of our cultural heritage. Folk Art is defined as "Art originating among the common people of a nation or region and usually reflecting their traditional culture, especially everyday or festive items produced or decorated by unschooled artists."

Our country has many regions and within each region are different groups with different traditions, practices and beliefs. In short, we have a very diverse society and in order to preserve the regional differences, there is a need to include folk arts in identification, collection and preservation of our cultural heritage. This should be done in the regional or local level as far as practicable, and under the supervision of the National Museum as provided for by RA No. 8942.

As such, there is a need to amend Section 16 of RA No. 8942 to include traditional folk arts in the identification, collection and preservation of our cultural heritage. Furthermore, the additional duties, responsibility in funding as well as the supervision by the National Museum of the regional museums are included in the amendment.

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

“KUYA” JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO
Representative
First District of Bulacan

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HOUSE BILL NO. 1080

Introduced by: **HON. "KUYA" JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO**

**AN ACT PRESERVING THE COUNTRY'S TRADITIONAL FOLK ARTS AS PART OF
ITS INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8492, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL MUSEUM
ACT OF 1998" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Section 16 of Republic Act No. 8492, otherwise known as the "National Museum Act of 1998" is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 16. Supervision over regional museums. – Museum branches with ten (10) or more personnel and/or high property accountability or cultural value shall be upgraded to regional museums upon recommendation of the Director of the Museum. The Director of the Museum, through that Assistant Director, shall have full supervision over regional museums and their personnel. The regional museums shall serve as information and cultural centers offering comprehensive and substantial collection of local archaeological finds, objects of art, TRADITIONAL FLOK ARTS and other local cultural treasures.

MOREOVER, THESE REGIONAL MUSEUMS, IN COORDINATION WITH THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS (NCCA) SHALL SPEARHEAD THE CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE SCHOOLS OF LIVING TRADITION FOUND WITHIN THEIR LOCALITIES.

LASTLY, THE NATIONAL MUSEUM MAY FACILITATE THE CREATION OF SEPARATAE TRADITIONAL FOLK ARTS MUSEUMS IN SELECT PROVINCES, PROVIDED, THAT THESE PROVINCES SHALL BEAR THE FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE OF SUCH FACILITIES WITH PERSONNEL FROM THE NATIONAL MUSEUM ACTING AS PART OF ADVISORY PANEL TO ASSIST IN THEIR MANAGEMENT

SECTION 2. 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.

SECTION 3. 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.

SECTION 4. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in at least two (2) national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

