

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11333, April 26, 2019]

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8492, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL MUSEUM ACT OF 1998", AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION I. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "National Museum of the Philippines Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to pursue and support the cultural development of the Filipino people, through the preservation, enrichment and dynamic evolution of Filipino national culture, based on the principle of unity in diversity in a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression.

SEC. 3. *Renaming of the National Museum.* - The National Museum is hereby renamed as the "National Museum of the Philippines", or, alternatively in Filipino, "Pambansang Museo ng Pilipinas". The shortened name "National Museum" or "Pambansang Museo" shall be understood as exclusively referring to the same, and its use in any manner or part of any name with respect to any institution within the Philippines shall be reserved exclusively to the Agency.

Hereinafter in this Act, the National Museum of the Philippines shall be referred to as the "National Museum".

SEC. 4. *Mandate, Duties and Functions.* - The National Museum shall be the primary institution of the State for the management and development of museums and collections of national scope or significance in the areas of arts, cultural heritage and natural history, for purposes of protecting, preserving, studying and promoting the national patrimony for the benefit of current and future generations, supporting education and social, progress, and contributing to economic development through tourism and educational, scientific, cultural and leisure services and industries. It shall be a permanent institution in the service of the entire national community and its development, accessible to the public, and not intended for profit.

The National Museum shall:

(a) Function as an educational, cultural and scientific institution that, through its operations, projects and programs, documents, acquires, preserves* exhibits, and fosters scholarly study and public appreciation of works of art, specimens, and cultural and historical artifacts representative of or unique to the artistic and cultural heritage of the Filipino people and the natural history of the Philippines.^ as well as their significance to the nation: *Provided*, That such mandate shall be carried out in

coordination with that of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, the National Library of the Philippines, and the National Archives of the Philippines relative to important historical documents, collections, memorabilia and other objects that have significant historical value;

(b) Establish, manage and develop the National Museum Complex at the Rizal Park, Manila, as well as central museums, regional museums and other facilities, and promote the principles of universal access: *Provided*, That such mandate shall be carried out in coordination with that of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines to operate historical museums and shrines in various parts of the country;

(c) Manage and develop the national collections of the Republic of the Philippines in the areas of arts, cultural heritage, and natural history;

(d) Carry out permanent research programs combining integrated laboratory and field work in biodiversity, geological history, human origins, pre-historical and historical archaeology, maritime and underwater cultural heritage, ethnology, art history, immovable, movable and intangible cultural properties, and similar or associated fields;

(e) Disseminate technical and museological skills and support museum development in the country;

(f) Extend technical assistance in the preservation and restoration of cultural properties of national significance; and

(g) Carry out any and all other functions characteristic of public collecting and research museum institutions of similar mandate and national scope, in line with prevailing international principles and best practices.

SEC. 5. *The National Museum as a Trust of the Government.* - To ensure its independence and autonomy, the National Museum shall be uniquely considered as a trust of the government, attached solely for budgetary coordination and related purposes to the Department of Education.

As a trust of the government, the National Museum shall:

(a) Continue to be classified as a National Government Agency, primarily for administrative purposes, including receiving its annual budget from the general appropriations of the National Government to cover appropriately the entirety of its mandated operations and activities;

(b) Be considered as higher in level than a Bureau or Bureau-level agency but beneath that of a Department or Department-level agency, primarily for administrative purposes as to staffing pattern and compensation scales; and

(c) Enjoy such privileges and special rules characteristic of both a Government-Owned or -Controlled Corporation and a State University or College wherever possible and which, in any and all cases, promote the objectives of this Act; and that special rules as may be necessary to this effect be formulated and appropriately

promulgated by the National Museum, the Department of Budget and Management, the Commission on Audit, and other concerned agencies.

SEC. 6. Permanent Site in the National Capital. - The whole Executive House, also known as the former Congress or Legislative Building, together with the former Department of Finance Building and former Department of Tourism, originally Agriculture and Commerce Building on the present Agrifina Circle in Rizal Park in the City of Manila, shall be the permanent and exclusive site of the National Museum, and shall form the core of the National Museum Complex in the national capital.

Likewise included in the National Museum Complex is the existing building of the National Planetarium, located in Rizal Park and operated by the National Museum since 1975, together with its lot as presently delineated.

The aforementioned buildings and their associated lands shall be deemed appropriated to the National Museum, and the record of the description of such site and lands, or a copy thereof, certified by the Director-General of the National Museum, shall be received as evidence in all courts of the extent and boundaries of the lands appropriated to the National Museum.

SEC. 7. Preservation of the Former Legislative Session Halls. - Without prejudice to their appropriate use in the operations of the National Museum, the National Museum shall preserve the former Session Halls of the House of Representatives and the Senate in the former Legislative Building as a tribute to the legacy of the great men and women of the Philippine Legislature for their invaluable contributions to the Filipino people, and as historical sites where democracy and freedom reigned and events of national significance transpired.

SEC. 8. Dedication, of the National Museum Complex to Dr. Jose Rizal. - The National Museum Complex of the National Museum, being part of Rizal Park in Manila, shall be dedicated to the life, work, martyrdom and memory of Dr. Jose Rizal, whose encyclopedic range of intellectual, professional, and patriotic interests are to be imbued as far as possible in the National Museum's public operations and activities throughout its National Museum Complex in the fields of history and literature in addition to anthropology, fine arts, architecture and the natural sciences, among others.

SEC. 9. Master Plan of the National Museum Complex. - The National Museum shall develop the National Museum Complex within and adjacent to Rizal Park and other identified areas with reference to the Burnham Plan for Manila of 1905, to include such institutional exigencies as public exhibition, activity and function halls, office and operational spaces, museological and technical facilities, premises for commercial operations, vehicular parking, integrative infrastructure for its constituent buildings, parks and green areas, and other kinds of public spaces, both above and below ground.

The National Museum shall likewise implement a design for a large public plaza and park fronting the former Legislative Building, integrating it with Intramuros as a National Cultural Treasure and exposing features of the walls and former moat in this area. The National Museum shall be the primary government entity responsible for the preservation of the Gomburza Monument by Solomon Sapid, opposite the former Legislative Building, and the Sentinel of Freedom, or Lapu-Lapu Monument,

by Juan Sajid Imao, in the present Agrifina Circle of Rizal Park, and shall ensure that the continued centrality and appropriate prominence of these monuments in their respective vicinities shall be maintained or otherwise enhanced further in any development that the National Museum may seek to implement relative to the National Museum Complex.

Within one (1) year after the effectivity of this Act, the National Museum shall formulate a Master Plan, if none yet exists. The Master Plan shall be approved by the Board of Trustees and shall be financed by the proceeds from its Endowment Fund and other allowable sources of funds, in accordance with existing laws. Implementation of the approved Master Plan in a programmed and systematic manner, and consequent administration and operation of the National Museum Complex by the National Museum, shall be given the strongest appropriate support by the agencies of the National Government that have jurisdiction over concerned properties, structures and utilities, as well as by the government of the City of Manila. No development within the area of the National Museum Complex, or which will, directly affect the same, shall be permitted without the approval of the National Museum.

The National Museum shall also be authorized to enter into appropriate public-private partnerships concerning property development and management to further the implementation of its Master Plan, in accordance with pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

SEC. 10. *Central Museums.* - The central museums of the National Museum shall include the existing National Museum of Fine Arts, National Museum of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History and the National Planetarium. The National Museum shall also take steps towards the establishment of central museums dedicated to archaeology, maritime and underwater cultural heritage, architectural arts and built heritage, and political and social history, which may be established within its National Museum Complex or elsewhere within the National Capital Region as appropriate, together with an institute for professional education, training and development in museology and allied fields, and a conservation center for movable cultural properties of national significance.

SEC. 11. *Regional, Area and Site Museums and Satellite Offices.* - The National Museum shall maintain its existing regional, area and site museums and satellite offices and, if none exists, take steps towards establishing a regional museum and satellite office in each administrative region of the Philippines beyond the National Capital Region, as well as area and site museums and offices wherever necessary: *Provided,* That such regional network of the National Museum shall be coordinated with that of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and other relevant cultural agencies to prevent institutional duplication.

The specific sites of new regional, area and site museums and satellite offices shall be selected based on considerations of geography, population distribution, and administrative efficiency as well as of outstanding national artistic, cultural and natural heritage significance, and educational, environmental and tourism considerations.

SEC. 12. *The Board of Trustees.* - The National Museum shall be governed by a Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to in this Act as the "Board", vested with the following powers and functions:

- (a) To represent and mobilize pertinent areas of the private sector and the public sector in support of the mission and aims of the National Museum;
- (b) To serve as the appointing authority for the Head of Agency and Agency Management;
- (c) To exercise general oversight on behalf of both the private and public sector over the operations and performance of the National Museum through the Head of Agency and Agency Management;
- (d) To approve strategic policies, goals and directions for the National Museum where necessary, and any such special projects and programs as it may consider appropriate to carry out for its benefit, for implementation through the Head of Agency and Agency Management;
- (e) To administer the National Museum Endowment Fund, National Museum Donations Fund and National Museum Income Fund as provided for in this Act;
- (f) To consider and appropriately dispose of appeals regarding administrative decisions of the Head of Agency, where appropriate in line with pertinent laws and issuances; and
- (g) To carry out such other functions as provided herein, as well as in other pertinent laws and issuances.

SEC. 13. *Composition of the Board, of Trustees.* - The Board shall comprise fifteen (15) members, to be composed of the following:

- (a) Eight (8) representatives of the private sector, all citizens of the Philippines, each with a demonstrated personal or professional commitment to the mission and aims of the National Museum, to include at least one (1) distinguished Filipino artist, architect or cultural worker, one (1) distinguished Filipino anthropologist or historian, and one (1) distinguished Filipino scientist in the field of natural history;
- (b) The following seven (7) government officials as *ex officio* members:
 - (1) The Chairperson of the appropriate Committee of the Senate covering the field of culture;
 - (2) The Chairperson of the appropriate Committee of the House of Representatives covering the field of culture;
 - (3) The Secretary of Education;
 - (4) The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources;
 - (5) The Secretary of Tourism;