

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4977



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Filipino culture is a rich and colorful mixture of several other cultures that evolved throughout time. Due to the geographical characteristics of our country, every locality is unique and filled with its own cultural gems that are waiting to be appreciated.

It is said that harnessing culture is a very powerful move. By learning and respecting local culture, indigenous conditions, and other distinctive characteristics that we have, we can create an environment and economy that is responsive to the needs of the people. By enriching and taking care of local culture and indigenous knowledge, we can create more sustainable and inclusive economies.

Thus, this representation believes that awareness and knowledge about every locale's culture must be placed in the forefront of national policy. Through this legislation, every locality will have not only its cultural roots, but also its history, officially recorded and disseminated to the public. A nationwide campaign, which include public educational institutions as its main target audience, will also be held to bring more attention to local culture. Lastly, national support for cultural events like festivals, fairs and others will be established through this bill. It is hoped that with all the foregoing solutions, we can create a more culturally-conscious generation who value and strive to further improve our heritage.


ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Partylist

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**AN ACT PROVIDING NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE GROWTH OF LOCAL
CULTURE AND HISTORY**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Kayamanan sa
Kultura at Kasaysayan Act.*”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to give
priority to culture and history. Hence, the State shall endeavor to support
programs, projects, and activities that promote the rich Filipino culture and
history not only for tourists but also for locals. The ultimate goal shall be to
instill and enrich the positive points of our culture and history and to
acknowledge and encourage the growth of Filipino culture.

SECTION 3. *Local Culture and History Officer for Every Province.* – Every
province shall have a Provincial Culture and History Officer who shall receive a
salary equivalent to Salary Grade (SG) 19. The Provincial Culture and History
Officer shall:

- a) Gather the local historical and cultural accounts for each city and
municipality of their province;
- b) Create a detailed account of the province’s unique historical and
cultural background;
- c) Publish the collated historical and cultural accounts and disseminate
copies to every the National Library, and to all public school and state
universities and colleges in the province free of charge, and make
such other copies available for public consumption;
- d) Submit to the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA)
and National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) a copy

- of the historical and cultural accounts of all the cities and municipalities within their province's jurisdiction;
- e) Lead the organization and implementation of plans for official festivals, trade fairs, cultural events, and other similar events or activities that are meaningful and will promote their local history and culture; and
 - f) Organize and conduct regular cultural enrichment and appreciation activities within their locality.

The NCCA as the lead agency for this endeavor, shall, in partnership with the NHCP, create a comprehensive set of guidelines for the contents of the detailed cultural and historical account within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

The Provincial History and Culture Officer shall be appointed by the head of the LGU within six (6) months from the completion of the guidelines aforementioned, subject to CSC Rules and Regulations.

The appointed officers shall thereafter submit the detailed cultural and historical account to the NCCA and NHCP within one (1) year from their appointment as such. This initial submission shall be used by the NCCA and NHCP for its provincial culture and history campaign provided in Section 6 hereof.

SECTION 4. *Funding for Official Festivals, Trade Fairs, Cultural Events, and Other Similar Events Promoting the Local Culture and History.* – There shall be a National Cultural Enrichment Fund (NCEF) in such amount as may be deemed necessary by the agencies called to implement this act. The NCEF shall be included in the yearly General Appropriations Act and shall only be used to provide support funding for official festivals, trade fairs and cultural events, and other similar events promoting the local culture and history.

The NCCA shall manage the NCEF, and release the necessary amounts to the local government unit (LGU) after the submission of the official request for funding and other relevant documents and its approval by the NCCA.

If the lead event organizer is a private entity whose services have been contracted by the LGU, the LGU shall issue a certification to such effect and the certification shall be attached to the request for support funding filed jointly by the LGU and the private entity, and closely monitor the disbursement of the fund; *Provided*, that the LGU shall submit to the NCCA a report on how the fund was used within sixty (60) days after the festival, trade fair, cultural event, or other similar events.

SECTION 5. *Provincial Culture and History Campaign.* – The NCCA, in coordination with the DOT shall launch a provincial culture and history

campaign to raise better awareness about the rich culture of every province among residents of the said province and those from other provinces. The NCCA shall also include public schools and state universities and colleges (SUCs) as their target audience for the campaign.

SECTION 6. *Annual Cultural or Historical Event.* – Every provincial LGU shall have at least one (1) cultural or historical event that will showcase the unique culture and history of their locality. This event shall qualify under those which may obtain national funding support upon compliance with the application requirements laid out by the NCCA.

SECTION 7. *Appropriations.* – Such amount as may be necessary for the initial implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be drawn from this year’s appropriation for the NCCA. Thereafter, the necessary appropriations for the implementation of this law shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts unaffected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,