

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5518



Introduced by Rep. Christopher P. de Venecia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Dagupan City is the home of two distinguished national artists, Victorio Edades and Salvador "Badong" Bernal.


Known as the "Father of Modern Philippine Painting", Victorio C. Edades was born on December 13, 1895 in Barrio Bolosan. In his younger years, his natural ability to create and appreciate arts was so evident that he was merely even called as the "apprentice teacher". After finishing high school, he travelled to the United States to further master his craft. From there, he acquired techniques that veered him away from the conservative academic art. From Impressionism and Realism, he gradually changed his style adopting the Modernist thought.

Edades participated in various competitions in America and won awards. But when he returned back to the Philippines, his art did not gain much appreciation from the Filipinos. Not one painting was sold in an exhibit he produced at the Philippine Columbia Club in Ermita. A lot of critics were shaken by the style of his paintings which were in the form of distorted human figures in rough, bold impasto strokes. But firm on what he believed was creative art, he stood tall in his advocacy which was later on embraced by many artists.

Salvador "Badong" F. Bernal is a master of contemporary Filipino theater design. He was able to design more than 300 productions that were distinguished for their originality since 1969. Fully aware of the limitations of local productions in terms of budget and resources, he innovatively and creatively used inexpensive local materials such as bamboo, raw abaca, and abaca fiber, hemp twine, rattan chain links and gauze cachea.

Badong Bernal did not keep his talent to himself. He decided to share his skills with younger designers by conducting classes at the University of the Philippines and Ateneo de Manila University. He also created programs for the CPP Production Design Center and organized the PATDAT (Philippine Association of Theatre Designers and Technicians) in 1995 to promote and professionalize theater design. Bernal was conferred the National Artist Award in 2003.

In view of the invaluable contribution of these two Dagupeño national artists, I am filing this bill that seeks to establish the Edades and Bernal Museum in Dagupan City.


Rep. Christopher V.P. de Venecia
4th District, Pangasinan

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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING THE EDADES AND BERNAL MUSEUM IN THE CITY OF
DAGUPAN, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. – Article 14 Section 15 of the Constitution affirms that “Arts and letters shall enjoy the patronage of the State. The State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation’s historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations.” Towards this end, it shall be declared the policy of the State to preserve the works of our national artists and lay it in a space that acknowledges their contribution to the nation’s cultural heritage.

SEC. 2. Establishment. – There shall be a Museum in the city of Dagupan, province of Pangasinan, to be named after the city’s distinguished national artists Victorio Edades and Salvador “Badong” Bernal. The establishment of the said museum shall be undertaken by the Local Government Unit (LGU) under the guidance of the National Museum.

SEC. 3. Site. – The LGU shall provide the land necessary for the construction of the Edades and Bernal Museum.

SEC. 4. Appropriations. – The implementation of this Act shall be charged against the budget allocation of the National Museum. Thereafter, such amount necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 5. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* and in one (1) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,