

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

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1287**



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**Introduced by Hon. Christopher V.P. de Venecia**

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR FUNDING THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES THROUGH THE ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO COMPLEMENT AND SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF K-12 EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Education has never been limited to the confines of a physical classroom. Through the use of non-formal educational spaces and institutions such as museums, our country can engage the youth in immersive learning experiences in order to further enhance their interest and pique their curiosity in our history, heritage, arts, traditions, and way of life.

There have been a lot of benefits attributed to museums as a form of non-formal education. Some argue that museums play a unique role in shaping the minds of our millions of learners by offering benefits not found in schools. They are nonthreatening environments that appeal to a wide range of audiences; they offer an interdisciplinary approach to learning; they have greater flexibility than schools; and they have the capacity to bring students, teachers, and the public together in new ways.

According to Shari Tishman, lecturer in the Arts in Education Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, “Museums are designs for learning. Whether intentionally or not, museums embody views about what’s worth learning, and the way that artworks, objects, and historical material are presented – from exhibitions to architecture to wall texts – embody views about how learning happens.

In order to complement and support the development of public K-12 education in the country and recognize the importance of museums in the complementarity and non-formal education of our learners, this bill seeks to establish a framework for the funding of the operations and development of the National Museum of the Philippines. This is in accordance with the mission and mandate of the Department of Education to protect and promote the right of every Filipino to quality, equitable, *culture-based*, and complete basic education in the areas of formal and *non-formal basic education*.

At the same time, this will allow our museums to quickly recover from the losses they attained as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which severely limited the number of patrons they had in the past years.

For the above cited reasons, the passage of the bill is urgently sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher V.P. De Venecia', written in a cursive style.

**HON. CHRISTOPHER V.P. DE VENECIA**  
Fourth District, Pangasinan

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**SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF K-12 EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY**

*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 “Fund Our Museums Act of 2020”.

**SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize museums and similar institutions as essential learning institutions and spaces for non-formal education for the promotion of the history, heritage, culture, and the arts of the country, as well as the creation of employment and livelihood within the museum industry and in other related industries for learners. In order to support these institutions and harness their potential, appropriate funding shall be given for the promotion, development, improvement, and maintenance of the various museums in our country.

**Section 3. National Museum of the Philippines Funding Framework.** - The general appropriations of the National Museum of the Philippines for each fiscal year following the effectivity of this Act shall be pegged at the budget of the Department of Education (DepEd) at no less than ONE-FOURTH OF ONE PERCENT (0.25%) of its total budget in order to ensure the viability and sustainability of the operations of the National Museum of the Philippines, as well as the construction and operations of regional, area, and site museums, towards the creation of a network of museums nationwide.

Additional appropriations for the National Museum of the Philippines for each fiscal year following the effectivity of this act may be sourced from the Department of Education (DepEd)’s annual budget for the same purposes mentioned in the first paragraph of this section.

This funding framework aims to secure and accelerate the continued development of the National Museum of the Philippines network, based on careful planning and short, medium and long-term

programming of works, involving both operational as well as capital expenditures, within the national capital, in each administrative region and sub-region, and in various specific sites throughout the country to provide greater access to all the learners.

The provisions of this section notwithstanding, the National Museum of the Philippines and the Department of Education shall submit to the annual budget process as prescribed by the Department of Budget and Management. The National Museum, the DepEd, and the department of Budget and Management shall coordinate and exert best efforts to ensure that the requirements under this section are complied with in the preparation of the annual budget.

**SECTION 4. *Purposes of the Funding framework*** – The National Museum of the Philippines, in coordination with the DepEd and the Department of Budget and Management, shall plan and formulate an annual budget proposal consonant with said level, and present this to the Congress for its approval as part of the General Appropriations Act for each fiscal year, to cover the following:

- a.) Personal services to cover the remuneration and benefits of regular personnel, which shall be upgraded and expanded in line with prevailing laws and issuances, as well as operational exigencies as may be proposed by the National Museum and approved by the Department of Budget and Management.
- b.) Maintenance and other operating expenses to cover the basic requirements of the National Museum, to operate, maintain, secure and supply, in proper order:
  - i. its offices and ordinary facilities, property, plant, equipment and other assets;
  - ii. its special, technical and patrimonial property, plant, equipment and other assets, as embodied particularly in its permanent collections, permanent repositories, permanent exhibitions, and items on long-term loan; and
  - iii. basic museum services to the general public, delivered onsite and/or online.
- c.) A Museum Education, Community and Audience Development Program;
- d.) A Museum Infrastructure, Facilities and Sites Development Program;
- e.) A Museum Collections Acquisition and Development Program;
- f.) A Museum Research Program, to include an amount for research chairs, fellowships and grants in the agency's mandated areas of work and competence;
- g.) A Museum External Training and Skills Development Program;
- h.) Implementation of the regional network of the National Museum pursuant to section 11 of Republic Act No. 11333 or the '*National Museum of the Philippines Act*' and to section 6 of this Act;
- i.) Utilization of Gabaldon Schools buildings that have been preserved pursuant to section 5 of Republic Act No. 11194 or the '*Gabaldon Schools Buildings Conservation act*' as possible museum spaces, in coordination with the department of education;
- j.) such other projects, activities, and programs consistent with the national museum's mandate under republic act no. 11333 and successor legislation.

**SECTION 5. *Capital Outlay***. – In order to ensure that the agency is empowered to expand its infrastructure program for the creation of central, regional, area, and site museums, and acquire

items for the collections that can also be spread out nation-wide, the capital outlay covering equipment, infrastructure and the acquisition of assets, particularly immovable or movable heritage assets, shall represent not less than thirty percent (30%) of the budget established in each year by virtue of this Act.

**SECTION 6. Regional Network of Museums Roadmap.** – For the enforcement, realization, and monitoring of its mandate set forth under Section 11 of R.A. No. 11333, the National Museum shall create a roadmap towards the creation of a regional network of museums, which shall be comprised of regional, area, and site museums that shall be constructed and managed by the national museum spread out across the country.

**SECTION 7. Congressional oversight** – The National Museum shall submit an annual report to the President and to Congress, not later than the 30th of March every year, following the effectivity of this act, on the effective implementation of this act, and recommended legislation where applicable and necessary

**SECTION 8. Separability Clause.** – Any portion or provision of this Act that may be declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or provisions hereof as long as such remaining provisions can still subsist and be given effect

**SECTION 9. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules and regulations which are 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,*