

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 372



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Introduced by:

**Gabriela Women's Party Reps. ARLENE D. BROSAS and EMMI A. DE JESUS**

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Filipino women have played leading and supportive roles in the Filipinos' historic struggles for liberation, justice, peace and prosperity.

Gabriela Silang, Tandang Sora, Teresa Magbanua and Trinidad Tecson fought against colonialism and foreign invasion. There, too, were women who started organizing at the turn of the century: the Logia de Adopcion, a masonic lodge of Filipino women in 1893; the Asociacion de Damas de la Cruz Roja (Women's Red Cross Association) and the Association of Ilonga Feminista led by Pura Villanueva Kalaw, which started the nationwide campaign for women's suffrage in 1912.

The suffragettes' campaigns took the form of lobbying with government officials and holding rallies and conferences. Their effort resulted in the passage of the suffrage bill in the Philippines Legislature in 1933, implementation of the Administrative Code which allowed women to vote in 1935, and the ratification of women's suffrage rights in a national plebiscite in 1937.

In Martial Law years, activists like Liliosa Hilao, Jessica Sales, Lorena Barros and Puri Pedro sacrificed their lives for nationalism and democracy.

Yet, no national institution is dedicated to the heritage, heroism and martyrdom of Filipino women. Women's historic contributions to people's struggles for freedom, women's rights and gender equality, and nation-building should not go unvalued and unnoted leaving a gap in our country's historical record

Furthermore, knowledge of Filipino women's heritage and heroism is crucial in developing people's appreciation and respect for women and girls that should eventually help eliminate discrimination, oppression and violence against females of all ages.

A National Filipino Women's Museum is needed to commemorate Filipino women's heroism and martyrdom and profile the specific achievements that women – individually and collectively – have made in all aspects of Philippine society.

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

  
ARLENE D. BROSAS  
Gabriela Women's Party

  
EMMI A. DE JESUS  
Gabriela Women's Party

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**AN ACT TO CREATE A NATIONAL WOMEN'S MUSEUM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**Section 1. Short title.** – This Act shall be known as the "National Filipino Women's Museum Act of 2016".

**Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

- 2.1 Recognize women's historic contributions to the Filipinos' development as a national and people
- 2.2 Celebrate women whose various individual and collective actions have caused to dramatically and significantly advance Filipino women's fight against inequality, discrimination and deprivation.
- 2.3 Honor women's role and heroism in the Filipinos' liberation from foreign invasion and occupation of the Spanish, American and Japanese.
- 2.4 Honor individual women whose specific achievements have enriched and impacted on any and all aspects of Filipino life
- 2.5 Commemorate modern-day women heroines and martyrs who struggled against injustice. Oppression and exploitation especially during Martial Law.

**Section 3. Creation of the National Filipino Women's Museum.** – To carry out the above policy, the National Filipino Women's Museum, hereinafter referred to as the Women's Museum, is hereby created and established.

**Section 4. Organization, Operation and Administration.** – The organization, operation and administration of the National Filipino Women's Museum shall follow the general and standard structures, management and operations established, mandated and practiced by the National Commission for Culture and Arts (NCCA) and other appropriate agencies.

**Section 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The NCCA shall formulate, within thirty (30) days from its effectivity, the rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

**Section 6. Appropriations.** – Such sums as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out this Act are hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act.

**Section 7. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations and other issuance or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 8. Separability Clause.** – If for any reason, a provision or section of this Act is declared invalid or Unconstitutional, other sections or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 9. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspaper of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,