

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 443



Introduced by Rep. Christopher P. De Venecia, Rep. Eric D. Singson, Rep. Fredenil H. Castro, Rep. Romero S. Quimbo, Rep. Pia S. Cayetano, Rep. Gwendolyn F. Garcia, Rep. Sharon S. Garin, Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Rep. Bai Sandra A. Sema, Rep. Rolando G. Andaya, Jr., Rep. Danilo E. Suarez, Rep. Imelda R. Marcos, Rep. Jose L. Atienza, Jr., Rep. Rene L. Relampagos, Rep. Edcel C. Lagman, Rep. Rosenda Ann Ocampo, Rep. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, Rep. Evelina G. Escudero, Rep. Len B. Alonte-Naguiat, Rep. Ron P. Salo, Rep. Rosanna V. Vergara, Rep. Vini Nola A. Ortega, Rep. Sarah Jane I. Elago, Rep. Cristal L. Bagatsing, Rep. Eric M. Martinez, Rep. Jose Enrique S. Garcia III, Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy, Rep. Carmelo B. Lazatin II, Rep. Micaela S. Violago, Rep. Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao, Rep. Henedina R. Abad, Rep. Arlene B. Arcillas, Rep. Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez, Rep. Michael L. Romero, Rep. Juan Pablo Bondoc, Rep. Cristina Roa-Puno, Rep. Harlin Neil J. Abayon III, Rep. Wilter W. Palma II, Rep. Pedro B. Acharon, Jr., Rep. Tobias M. Tiangco, Rep. Manuel Luis T. Lopez, Rep. Leopoldo N. Bataoil, Rep. Eugene Michael B. De Vera, Rep. Prospero A. Pichay, Jr., Rep. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan, Rep. Rogelio D. Pacquiao, Rep. Horacio P. Suansing, Jr., Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo, Rep. Arnolfo A. Teves, Jr., Rep. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Rep. Aurelio D. Gonzales, Jr., Rep. Raul V. Del Mar, Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, Rep. Benhur B. Lopez, Jr., Rep. Deogracias Victor B. Savellano, Rep. Arnel U. Ty, Rep. Arthur R. Defensor, Jr., Rep. Juliet Marie D. Ferrer, Rep. Divina Grace C. Yu, Rep. Glona G. Labadlabad, Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, Rep. Manuel Jose M. Dalipe, Rep. Alfredo A. Garbin, Jr., Rep. Luis Jose Angel N. Campos, Jr., Rep. Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Rep. Alberto T. Ungab, Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Rep. Michelle M. Antonio, Rep. Abigail Faye C. Ferriol-Pascual, Rep. Henry C. Ong, Rep. Harry L. Roque, Jr., Rep. Gerald Anthony V. Gullas, Jr., Rep. Sandra Y. Eriguel, Rep. Pablo C. Ortega, Rep. Mark O. Go, Rep. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte, Rep. Dale R. Malapitan, Rep. Edward Vera Perez Maceda, Rep. Salvador B. Belaro, Jr., Rep. Elenita Milagros Ermita-Buhain, Rep. Victoria Isabel G. Noel, Rep. Winston Castelo, Rep. Bayani F. Fernando, Rep. Manuel T. Sagarbarria, Rep. Alexandria P. Gonzales, Rep. Ann K. Hofer, Rep. Vincent P. Crisologo, Rep. Roger G. Mercado, Rep. Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing, Rep. Lianda B. Bolilia, Rep. Kaka J. Bag-ao, Rep. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento, Rep. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Rep. Ariel B. Casilao, Rep. France L. Castro, Rep. Antonio L. Tinio, Rep. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Rep. Edgar R. Erice, Rep. Mercedes C. Cagas, Rep. Carlo V. Lopez, Rep. Manuel F. Zubiri, Rep. Emi G. Calixto-Rubiano, Rep. Romeo M. Acop, Rep. John Marvin C. Nieto, Rep. Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang, Rep. Julieta R. Cortuna, Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo, Rep. Sherwin N. Tugna, Rep. Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso, Rep. Dakila Carlo E. Cua, Rep. Geraldine B. Roman, Rep. Vilma

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A RESOLUTION URGING SPEAKER PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ THROUGH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KARLO B. NOGRALES TO RESTORE THE BUDGET OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS (NCCA) TO THE 2016 LEVEL WITH AUGMENTATION FOR ADDITIONAL THIRTY ONE (31) PERMANENT POSITIONS

WHEREAS, NCCA is the primary government agency mandated by Republic Act No. 7356 to formulate and implement policies and plans:

1. To encourage the continuing and balanced development of a pluralistic culture by the people themselves;
2. To conserve and promote the nation's historical and cultural heritage;
3. To ensure the widest dissemination of artistic and cultural products among the greatest number across the country and overseas for their appreciation and enjoyment;
4. To preserve and integrate traditional culture and its various creative expressions as a dynamic part of the national cultural mainstream; and
5. To ensure that standards of excellence are pursued in programs and activities implementing policies herein stated.

WHEREAS, NCCA has the following powers and functions under Republic Act No. 7356:

1. Encourage and facilitate the organization of a network of regional and local councils for culture and the arts, hereunder described, to ensure a broad nationwide, people-based participation in the formulation of plans, the enforcement of culture-related laws and regulations, the implementation of programs/projects and the review of funding requirements;
2. Establish a secretariat under an Executive Director for the administrative and day-to day operations of the Commission;
3. Set up a system of networking and coordination with and among all existing government cultural agencies for the effective implementation of programs and activities;
4. Create committees and other mechanisms to help expedite the implementation of plans and strategies;
5. Call upon and coordinate with other government and non-government art and cultural institutions and agencies for assistance in any form;
6. Generate resources, both from the government and private sectors, local, national and international, for its operation, as well as for the National Endowment Fund for Culture and Arts;
7. Receive and accept donations and other conveyances including funds, materials, and services, by gratuitous title;

8. Administer the National Endowment Fund for Culture and Arts and give grants for the development, protection, preservation and dissemination of Philippine culture and arts, and designate a comptroller;
9. Prepare an annual budget of the Commission and submit the same to the President for inclusion in the annual General Appropriations Act;
10. Advise the President on matters pertaining to culture and the arts, including the creation of a special decoration or award, for persons who have significantly contributed to the development and promotion of Philippine culture and arts;
11. Promulgate rules, regulations and undertake any and all measures as may be necessary to implement Republic Act No. 7356; and
12. Regulate activities inimical to preservation/conservation of national cultural heritage/properties.

WHEREAS, during the NCCA budget deliberation on 27 September 2016, BUHAY Party-list Representative Jose Jr. L. Atienza, Bohol 1st District Representative Rene L. Relampagos, Albay 1st District Representative Edcel C. Lagman, and Manila 6th District Representative Rosenda Ann Ocampo were unanimous in questioning Appropriations Vice-Chair Congresswoman Maria Carmen S. Zamora regarding the sharp decrease of the budget allotment for the NCCA. Rep. Zamora, who was tasked to defend the NCCA budget, agreed with the interpellators that the 2017 NCCA budget should be restored to the 2016 approved appropriations and augmented to fund the needed additional permanent positions, in support of President Duterte's 10-point agenda, which includes the promotion of "science, technology, and the creative arts to enhance innovation and creative capacity towards self-sustaining, inclusive development";

WHEREAS, the proposed 2017 general appropriations for NCCA was cut down to Twenty Nine Million Six Hundred Twenty Six Thousand Pesos (P29,626,000) from the 2016 approved appropriation of One Hundred Eighty Six Million Eight Hundred Thirty Eight Thousand Pesos (P186,838,000), showing an eighty four per cent (84%) budget cut of One Hundred Fifty Seven Million Two Hundred Twelve Thousand Pesos (P157,212,000);

WHEREAS, the proposed 2017 Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) allocation for NCCA was slashed to a measly Eleven Million Eight Hundred Fifty Two Thousand Pesos (P11,852,000) from the 2016 approved MOOE appropriation of One Hundred Sixty Three Million Fifty One Thousand Pesos (P163,051,000), showing a ninety three per cent (93%) budget cut of One Hundred Fifty One Million One Hundred Ninety Nine Thousand Pesos (P151,199,000);

WHEREAS, this budget cut will disallow the NCCA from faithfully and effectively fulfilling its duties and responsibilities to the Filipino people;

WHEREAS, NCCA currently has 34 Authorized Positions for which House Bill No. 3408 (General Appropriations Bill) has allotted Seventeen Million Seven Hundred Seventy Four Thousand Pesos (P17,774,000) appropriation. Because of this, the NCCA is forced to hire contractual employees totaling ninety-eight (98), some of which hold key positions who

