

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7150



INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMAN ALFRED VARGAS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV Section 14 of the 1987 Philippine Constitutions provides:

"The State shall foster the preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of a Filipino national culture based on the principle of unity in diversity in a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression."

In his book, *The End of National Cinema*, University of the Philippines Assistant Professor Patrick Campos posits that at the turn of the 21st century, the Philippine cinema has lost its national identity due to globalization. In addition, the Philippine film industry is yet to fully embrace the cinematic narrative of regional filmmakers as the country's filmic output remains to be Manila-centric. Thus, the State must exert all efforts to level the playing field for all filmmakers, empower regional filmmakers by providing them the platform to show their creations, and raise awareness and appreciation of the country's film heritage.

This bill seeks to further develop the local filming industry by establishing a cinematheque in every region of the country. The regional cinematheque is designed to be an alternative and accessible venue for classic and contemporary Filipino films and relevant foreign films. It also seeks to encourage budding talents as the regional cinematheque will also serve as a hub for workshops and symposia on all aspects of filmmaking.

Through this initiative, we are contributing to the enrichment of inclusive film literacy and appreciation, thereby allowing Filipinos to embrace the diversity of our culture and revitalize the identity of the Philippine national cinema.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is urged.


ALFRED VARGAS

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A CINEMATHEQUE IN EVERY REGION OF THE PHILIPPINES AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “*Regional Cinematheque Act.*”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to foster the preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of a Filipino culture based on the principle of unity in diversity in a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression.

Towards this end, the State shall provide for the establishment of a cinematheque in every region of the country. This cinematheque is designed as an alternative and accessible venue for classic and contemporary Filipino and international films, both mainstream and independent, and shall also serve as a venue for workshops and symposia on directing, scriptwriting, editing, cinematography, and all other aspects of filmmaking.

SEC. 3. Establishment of a Regional Cinematheque. – There shall be established, under the supervision of the Film Development Council of the Philippines, a regional cinematheque in every region of the country.

SEC. 4. Location. – The location of the cinematheque shall be determined by the Chairperson of the Film Development Council of the Philippines, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government and the local government concerned.

SEC. 5. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the current appropriations for the Film Development Council of the Philippines. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continuous operation and maintenance of the cultural centers in every region of the country shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of the Film Development Council of the Philippines shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations as may be necessary to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,