

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 12 P3:29

SENATE
S.B. 1258

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The great Filipino painters Fernando Amorsolo, Vicente Manansala, Arturo Luz, Cesar Legaspi, Ang Kiukok and Ben Cabrera. The prolific Filipino auteur Lino Brocka and Philippine cinema's finest realist Ishmael Bernal. The bravura of outstanding musicians Andrea Veneracion, Lucio San Pedro and Lucrecia Kasilag. The masterful steps of Francisca Reyes Aquino and Ramon Obusan. The grandeur of designs in the works of Salvador Bernal. The gem of sculpture excellence of Napoleon Abueva. The fascinatingly rich writings of Nick Joaquin, Bienvenido Lumbera, and F. Sionil Jose. The true actor's actor, film gem Fernando Poe, Jr.

All of them, together with more than twenty (20) other Filipinos of the highest artistry and pride are National Artist awardees.

A National Artist of the Philippines is a title given to a Filipino who has been given the highest recognition for having made significant contributions in the development of Philippine arts, namely, visual arts, literature, music, dance, film, broadcast arts, fashion design, architecture and allied arts.

Through Proclamation Number 1001 issued on April 2, 1972, the National Artist Award is administered by the Cultural Center of the Philippines and presented by the President of the Philippines. At present, the *Artista ng Bayan* is given a presidential medallion and is conferred membership in the Order of National Artists.

This legislation complements the national recognition being awarded by providing cash prizes and a dedication spot which celebrates the excellent works, highest artistry and outstanding body of works and deeds of the *Artista ng Bayan*. It should be extended to all winners, from 1972 to the present.

Early cognizance of this bill is sought.


MANNY VILLAR

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**AN ACT
COMPLEMENTING THE HIGHEST HONOR OF PRIDE TO ALL NATIONAL
ARTIST OR "ARTISTA NG BAYAN" AWARDEES BY GRANTING THEM
CASH PRIZES AND OTHER NON-MONETARY RECOGNITION**

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

SECTION 1. All awardees of the National Artist or "Artista ng Bayan" including those that have been recognized posthumously are accorded the highest honor of Philippine pride and shall be given a cash prize of One Million Pesos (Php 1,000,000.00) each.

Five (5) years after its implementation, the National Commission on Culture and Arts (NCCA) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) are hereby empowered to review the cash prizes as may be deemed necessary and recommend appropriate increases and awarding of other prizes as may be relevant.

A "spot of honor" in the CCP and NCCA is to be constructed and each of the National Artist winner shall be accorded a corner showcasing and celebrating his/her excellent works, highest artistry and outstanding body of works and deeds.

For the purpose of this Act, the family or beneficiaries of the awardees shall be entitled to the cash prizes provided in this Act, in addition to their prizes which include a presidential medallion and membership conferment in the Order of National Artists: Provided, That the term "family" or "beneficiary" shall refer to the surviving spouse and his/her legitimate children, or parents, or brothers and sisters, in that order. Provided, further, that the grant of cash prizes under this Act shall have retroactive application and shall be provided all National Artist or "Artista ng Bayan" awardees.

SEC. 2. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,