

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

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SENATE

P. S. Resolution No. 923

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Introduced by SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING AND EXPRESSING THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT TO PATRICK D. FLORES IN LIGHT OF THE SELECTION OF HIS CURATORIAL PROPOSAL AS THE OFFICIAL ENTRY OF THE COUNTRY TO THE 56TH VENICE ART BIENNALE 2015

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 17 of the 1987 Constitution recognizes the important role of the arts in fostering patriotism and nationalism and promoting total human liberation and development;

WHEREAS, as a member of a community of nations, it is the utmost duty of the State to ensure that the artistry of Filipino artists be recognized and fully supported in the global stage as part of its contribution in enriching the total human experience through the arts;

WHEREAS, being the oldest and continuing contemporary art fair in the world since 1895, the Venice Biennale, held in Italy every two years, has served as a significant venue for ground-breaking avant-garde movements in contemporary art;

WHEREAS, over a period of six months, the Biennale welcomed over 375,000 visitors and represented 88 nations in 2013, and promises to be a venue to introduce the international art arena to Philippine contemporary art and its talents;

WHEREAS, despite the opportunity afforded by this global art event in showcasing creativity from various parts of the world, the first and last official participation of the Philippines happened during the 32nd Venice Biennale 1964 with future National Artists for the Visual Arts Napoleon V. Abueva and Jose T. Joya representing the country through a national pavilion;

WHEREAS, noting the absence of an official country representative for 50 years, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), in cooperation with the Office of Senator Loren Legarda, announced an open call for curatorial proposals on July 25, 2014, as part of the government's preparations for the upcoming 56th Venice Art Biennale from 9 May to 22 November 2015;

WHEREAS, after a two-day deliberation of 16 curatorial proposals, a panel of jurors composed of Mami Kataoka (Chief Curator, Mori Art Museum in Tokyo), New York-based multimedia artist Paul Pfeiffer, Renaud Proch (Executive Director, Independent Curators International), respected artist, critic and writer Cid Reyes, Felipe M. de Leon,

Jr. (Chairman, NCCA); and Senator Loren Legarda, finally selected the curatorial proposal "Tie A String Around the World" submitted by Patrick D. Flores;

WHEREAS, by mounting an exhibition of the newly-restored 1950 film Genghis Khan—a joint masterpiece of National Artists for Film Manuel Conde and Carlos Francisco, together with the contemporary art projects of intermedia artist Jose Tence Ruiz and filmmaker Mariano Montelibano III, both the NCCA and the DFA noted that the National Pavilion to be curated by Flores shall aim to tell the history of the Philippines as a history of art and as a history of the world through the works of artists across generations;

WHEREAS, currently a Professor of Art Studies at the University of the Philippines (UP) and Curator of the UP Vargas Museum with international affiliations that include the National Art Gallery of Singapore, Guggenheim Museum's Asian Art Council and Getty Research Institute among others, Flores proposed a curatorial concept characterized as "a poetic and political reflection of on the history of world making, the links between geography and politics, and the notions of nation, territory and archipelago";

WHEREAS, it is only fitting that a curatorial concept described as both "flawless and intellectually remarkable" by the jurors shall signify the return and hopefully continuous participation of the country in the oldest and most prestigious art event in the world;

WHEREAS, amid the challenges faced by the the country as it seeks to build back better communities, the strong resolve by the government in pushing on with this important endeavor only affirms the ability of the Filipino artists to "inspire and serve as strength of the nation";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to congratulate and express the full support of the government to Patrick D. Flores in light of the selection of his curatorial proposal as the official entry of the country to the 56th Venice Art Biennale 2015.

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA
Senator