



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 1531

BY REPRESENTATIVES GONZALEZ, REYES (E.), LAPUS, VILLAFUERTE,
CARMONA, BARINAGA, DOMINGUEZ, DY (C.), GULLAS, MACARAMBON,
CHUNGALAO, PLAZA, JOAQUIN, ACOSTA, SUPLICO, YAPHA AND
BANAAG

AN ACT CREATING A NATIONAL BOOK DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND TO SUPPORT FILIPINO AUTHORSHIP

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

1 SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “National Book
2 Development Trust Fund Act”.

3 SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote
4 the *continuing development* of the book publishing industry in all regions of
5 the country, as stated in the 1995 Book Publishing Development (Republic Act
6 No. 8047). Since authorship is one of the major components of book
7 publishing, the National Book Policy obliges the State to create an excellent

1 environment for the promotion of Filipino authorship and other creative
2 activities in book development.

3 SEC. 3. *The National Book Development Trust Fund.* – A National
4 Book Development Trust Fund is hereby established exclusively for the
5 support and promotion of Filipino authorship especially in science and
6 technology and in subject areas wherein locally authored books are either few
7 or nonexistent.

8 (a) The contribution of the Fund shall be sourced from the following:

9 (1) The amount of Fifty million pesos (P50,000,000.00) shall be taken
10 from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) fund at
11 Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00) per month for ten (10) months.

12 (2) Another amount of Fifty million pesos (P50,000,000.00) shall be
13 taken from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) at Five million
14 pesos (P5,000,000.00) per month for ten (10) months.

15 (b) Only the interest drawn from the Fund shall be awarded as grants to
16 promote Filipino authorship and to support the completion of local manuscripts
17 or research works for publication.

18 (c) The grants can be awarded only after one year from the
19 organization of the Fund, and the grants shall be awarded equitably among the
20 regions.

1 (d) Government corporations are hereby authorized to give grants to
2 the Fund at their discretion, but not to exceed fifteen percent (15%) of their
3 unimpaired surplus.

4 (e) The private portion of the Fund shall be raised from donations and
5 other conveyances including funds, materials, property and services, by
6 gratuitous title.

7 (f) Contributions to the Fund shall be deductible for income tax
8 purposes in accordance with the provision of Section 34(H)(1) of the National
9 Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

10 (g) *The National Book Development Board (NBDB)* shall be the
11 administrator of the Fund.

12 (h) For the sound and judicious management of the Fund, the NBDB
13 shall appoint a government financial institution as portfolio manager of the
14 Fund, subject to guidelines promulgated by the NBDB.

15 (i) The NBDB shall prepare the implementing guidelines and
16 decision-making mechanisms, subject to the following:

17 (1) Unless otherwise stipulated by the private donor, only earnings of
18 private contributions shall be used for grants.

19 (2) No part of the seed capital of the Fund, including earnings thereof,
20 shall be used to underwrite overhead expenses for administration.

1 (3) There shall be an external auditor to perform an annual audit of the
2 Fund's performance.

3 (4) The Fund shall be exempt from pre-audit by the Commission on
4 Audit (COA).

5 SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* – Any portion or provision of this Act that
6 may be declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other
7 portions or provisions thereof as long as such remaining portions or provisions
8 can still subsist and be given effect in the entirety.

9 SEC. 5. *Saving Clause.* – All laws, rules, regulations, other issuances or
10 parts which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby replaced or modified
11 accordingly.

12 SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
13 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two newspapers of general
14 circulation.

Approved,

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