



22 SEP 29 P4:43

**SENATE**

**S.B. No. 1357**

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Introduced by Sen. Juan Miguel F. Zubiri**

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**AN ACT  
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO JUVENAL SANSO**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to grant Philippine citizenship in deference to his rich cultural contributions that have made the Philippines a vigorous artistic community, especially in the art of painting.

Inspired by the likes of Juan Luna and Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo, two Filipino painters recognized in Europe, it is submitted that Philippine citizenship be accorded to a foreign national artistic painter whose heart has always been a Filipino – Master Painter Juvenal Sanso.

Juvenal Sanso came to the Philippines in 1934 when his father, Jose Sanso-Pedret decided to settle in the Philippines. He was four years old. He received his first art lesson from Alejandro Celis, one of the first graduates of the University of the Philippines (U.P.) School of Fine Arts, who introduced the young Juvenal to a whole universe. He later enrolled at the U.P. School of Fine Arts. His art professors were Fernando Amorsolo, Guillermo Tolentino, Dominador Castaneda, Torribio Herrera and Ireneo Miranda. It was in U.P. where Sanso found himself totally committed to art.

In March 1951, Sanso joined the annual exhibit of the Art Association of the Philippines. His entry, an oil painting entitled "the Sorcerer" won first prize and for the first time he was considered an artist. Later that year, he won first prize in watercolor for a work entitled "Incubus." His professor Antonio Garcia Llamas advised Sanso to go to Europe if he was serious about a career in art. Sanso departed for Europe in 1952 where he took formal art lessons in Rome and Paris.

Juvenal Sanso made a name for himself in different parts of the globe but the Philippines, his home country, always had a special place in his heart. His painting depicted themes and scenes of the Philippines such as his "Baclad," "Barong Tagalog" and "Bulaklak" series. He was cited "Artist of the Year" by the Cleveland Print Club. His work entitled "Moonglow" was chosen as "Print of the Year" by the Philadelphia Print Club. Sanso exhibited his works in all the capitals of the world. His paintings were acquired by major museums and private collectors worldwide. All the recognitions he received abroad always traced him back to the Philippines. Filipino artists and critics refer to Sanso as "Spanish by birth but Filipino at heart." The Philippines was and is always in Sanso's heart even when he lived abroad. He spent two to three months a year in Manila. In 2002, Sanso decided to retire and live permanently in the Philippines. He registered with the Philippine Retirement Authority.

Part of his many continuing commitments to his beloved country, the Philippines, was to give scholarships to promising Filipino art students. Through his membership with the U.P. College of Fine Arts Alumni Foundation he helped in making available valuable works of art to the public. He was a volunteer mentor to art students in the Shell National Artist competitions.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



**JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**

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

1       **Section 1.** Mr. Juvenal Sanso is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with  
2 all the rights, privileges and prerogatives, as well as the duties and obligations  
3 appurtenant thereto under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the  
4 Philippines.

5       **Sec. 2.** Upon taking his Oath of Allegiance before an officer duly authorized  
6 for this purpose, and the registration of the same with the Bureau of Immigration,  
7 Mr. Juvenal Sanso shall enter upon the full enjoyment of his Philippine citizenship.

8       **Sec. 3.** Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of  
9 Immigration shall issue Mr. Juvenal Sanso his Certificate of Naturalization.

10       **Sec. 4.** This Act shall take effect immediately upon publication in at least  
11 two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

**Approved,**