

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2863



Introduced by Rep. Christopher P. De Venecia

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE EDADES AND BERNAL MUSEUM IN THE CITY OF DAGUPAN,
PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Dagupan City is the home of two distinguished national artists: Victorio Edades and Salvador "Badong" Bernal.

Known as the "Father of Modern Philippine Painting," Victorio C. Edades was born on December 13, 1895 in Barrio Bolosan. In his younger years, his natural ability to create and appreciate arts was so evident that he was even called as the "apprentice teacher." After finishing high school, he travelled to the United States to further master his crafts. From there, he acquired techniques that veered him away from the conservative academic art. From Impressionism and Realism, he gradually adopted the Modernist thought, a style which encouraged artistic experimentation and allowed the artist to interpret reality in his own way.

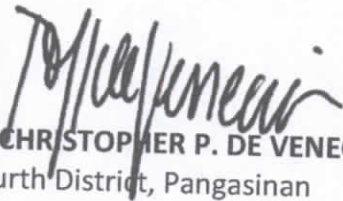
Edades participated in various competitions in America and won awards. But when he returned back to the Philippines, his art did not gain much appreciation from his countrymen. Not one painting was sold in an exhibit he produced at the Philippine Columbia Club in Ermita. A lot of critics were shaken by the style of his paintings which were in the form of distorted human figures in rough, bold impasto strokes. But firm on what he believed was creative art, he stood tall in his advocacy which was later on embraced by many artists. Edades was named a National Artist in 1976.

Meanwhile, Salvador "Badong" F. Bernal is a master of contemporary Filipino theater design. He was able to design more than 300 productions that were distinguished for their originality since 1969. Fully aware of the limitations of local productions in terms of budget and resources, he innovatively and creatively used inexpensive local materials such as bamboo, raw abaca, abaca fiber, hemp twine, rattan chain links, and gauze cacha. In doing so, Bernal

demonstrated the versatility of Filipino materials for design and proved that the poverty of the production need not imply the poverty of the imagination.

Badong Bernal did not keep his talent to himself. He decided to share his skills with younger designers by conducting classes at the University of the Philippines and Ateneo de Manila University. He also created programs for the CPP Production Design Center and organized the PATDAT (Philippine Association of Theatre Designers and Technicians) in 1995 to promote and professionalize theater design. Bernal was conferred the National Artist Award in 2003.

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



REP. CHRISTOPHER P. DE VENECIA
Fourth District, Pangasinan

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

**CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. – Article XIV, Section 15 of the Constitution affirms that “Arts and letters shall enjoy the patronage of the State. The State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation’s historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations.” Towards this end, it shall be declared the policy of the State to preserve the works of our national artists and lay it in a space that acknowledges their contribution to the nation’s cultural heritage.

SEC. 2. Establishment. – There shall be a Museum in the city of Dagupan, province of Pangasinan, to be named after the city’s distinguished national artists Victorio Edades and Salvador “Badong” Bernal. The establishment of the said museum shall be undertaken by the Local Government Unit (LGU) under the guidance of the National Museum.

SEC. 3. Functions of the Museum. – The functions of the Museum are:

- a) to exhibit, or to make available for exhibition by others, in the Philippines, or elsewhere, the material included in the Edades and Bernal Museum collection;
- b) to cooperate with other public or private institutions in exhibiting, or in making available for exhibition, of such material; and

- c) to develop, preserve and maintain the Edades and Bernal collection in accordance with this Act.

SEC. 4. Powers of the Museum. – The Museum has power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with the performance of its functions and, in particular, has power:

- a) to purchase, commission the creation of or take on hire, deposit or loan the Edades and Bernal collection;
- b) to lend or hire out or otherwise deal with the Edades and Bernal collection;
- c) to recover, or to arrange for or assist in the recovery of, the Edades and Bernal collection from the National Museum and from other areas;
- d) to dispose of, in accordance with this Act, material included in the Edades and Bernal collection, and to dispose of material and collection that is otherwise in the possession of the Museum;
- e) to collect, and make available, whether in writing or in any other form and whether by sale or otherwise, information relating to the Edades and Bernal collection;
- f) to make available information relating to the Museum and its functions;
- g) to make available, whether by sale or otherwise, reproductions, replicas or other representations, whether in writing or in any other form, of the Edades and Bernal collection;
- h) to enter into contracts;
- i) to acquire, hold and dispose of real or personal property;
- j) to purchase or take on hire, deposit or loan, and to dispose of or otherwise deal with furnishings, equipment and other goods;

- k) to charge such fees and impose such charges, in addition to the charges fixed by regulations, as are reasonable in respect of services rendered by the Museum; and
- l) to appoint agents and attorneys and act as an agent for other persons.

SEC. 5. *Site.* – The LGU shall provide the land necessary for the construction of the Edades and Bernal Museum.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* – The implementation of this Act shall be charged against the budget allocation of the National Museum. Thereafter, such amount necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* and in one (1) newspaper for general circulation.

Approved,