



# **THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS ON THE RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL LIVING TREASURES, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MANLILIKHA NG BAYAN, AND THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF TRADITIONAL AND FOLK ARTS AS AMENDED**

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 7 of Republic Act No. 7355 (RA 7355), otherwise known as the Manlilikha ng Bayan Act, the following Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) governing the selection, development and promotion of the Manlilikha ng Bayan are hereby adopted and promulgated.

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## **SECTION 1**

These IRR shall prescribe the methodology for the search, screening and selection of the candidates for the National Living Treasures Award or Gawad sa Manlilikha ng Bayan (GAMABA) as well as the development and promotional programs for the awardees, in accordance with the provisions of RA 7355.

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## **SECTION 2**

This set of IRR shall be interpreted in light of the declaration of policy of the State as set forth in Section 2 of RA 7355, that is, “to preserve and promote its traditional folk arts whether visual, performing, or literary, for their cultural value, and to honor and support traditional folk artists for their contributions to the national heritage by ensuring that the artistic skills which they have painstakingly cultivated and preserved are encouraged and passed on to future generations of Filipinos.”

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## **SECTION 3**

In accordance with the law, the GAMABA has been instituted as a national tribute to the creative and technical genius of the Filipino traditional and folk artist, and more specifically, it aims to:

- a) acknowledge the importance of the traditional and folk artist as a singular conduit between the skills of the past and the future and to highlight the significance of Filipino traditional arts and cultures, indigenous or syncretized, in defining Filipino identity and enhancing contemporary life;
- b) revitalize a community’s creative/artistic traditions thereby protecting a valuable facet of Philippine culture and to strengthen worthy traditions threatened with extinction;
- c) recognize the vital role of traditional artists in preserving and developing our indigenous artistic heritage;



- d) accord the Filipino traditional artists the highest honors and respect for their consummate technical skills and outstanding creativity;
  - e) create opportunities for popularizing their works locally and internationally; and,
  - f) ensure a system for identifying and providing adequate support to traditional artists who qualify as National Living Treasures so as to enable them to bequeath their precious knowledge to succeeding generations of Filipinos.
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## SECTION 4

For purposes of these IRR, the following terms shall be taken and understood in the sense indicated hereunder:

- a) **“Manlilikha ng Bayan,”** or National Living Treasures, refers to the traditional and folk artist entitled to the recognition provided for by RA 7355. As envisioned under said law, this term shall mean a citizen or group of citizens engaged in any traditional art uniquely Filipino whose distinctive skills have reached a high level of technical and artistic excellence, and the knowledge and skills have been passed on to and are widely practiced by the present generation in his/her/their community with the same degree of technical and artistic competence.
  - b) **“Traditional and Folk Arts”** refers to expressions of creativity and distinctiveness serving decorative, aesthetic, and/or utilitarian or socio-economic functions of traditional and folk artists commonly known for such works.
  - c) **“Traditional Cultural Communities”** are groups of people who share a cultural identity by self-ascription and ascription by others which can be based on language, history, values and practices.
  - d) **“Awardee”** refers to the Manlilikha ng Bayan, the recipient of the GAMABA.
  - e) **“Documentation”** refers to the continuous process of substantiating or recording the existence of the works, including work methods and tools, of the Manlilikha ng Bayan through appropriate methods and techniques.
  - f) **“Group”** refers to a cluster of Filipino artisans performing certain tasks in the completion of a traditional art form identified with a cultural community.
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**Section 5.** To become a Manlilikha ng Bayan, an individual or group candidate must:

- a) Possess a mastery of the tools and materials needed for the traditional, folk art and be a maker of works of extraordinary technical quality;
- b) Have consistently produced works of superior quality over significant period;



- c) Have engaged in a traditional and folk art which has been in existence and documented for at least fifty (50) years;
- d) Command respect and inspire admiration of the country with his character and integrity;
- e) Must have transferred and/or be willing to transfer to other members of the community the skills in the traditional and folk arts for which the community has become nationally known.

However, a candidate who, due to age or infirmity, has left him/her incapable of teaching further his/her craft, may still be recognized provided that he/she must possess the qualifications as enumerated above.

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**Section 6.** The following are the basis of disqualification from being nominated to the GAMABA:

- a) Incumbent officials or members of the NCCA secretariat and national committees;
- b) Conviction by final judgement of a crime involving moral turpitude;

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**Section 7.** The award may cover traditional and folk arts in the areas of performing arts and crafts.

Considerations shall be made for adequate representation in geographic distribution and different artistic categories.

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**Section 8.** A GAMABA Executive Council is hereby created by the Board of Commissioners (BOC) of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) in accordance with Section 7 of Republic Act No. 7355.

**8.1** The Executive Council shall have nine (9) members and shall be composed of the following:

- a) The incumbent Executive Council Heads of the national committees on the Northern, Central, and, Southern Cultural Communities of the NCCA Subcommittee on Cultural Communities and Traditional Arts (SCCTA);
- b) The official representative of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP);
- c) The official representative of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF); and,



- d) Four (4) additional members to be designated by the NCCA Board.

**8.2** The Head of the SCCTA shall serve as the Head of the GAMABA Executive Council during his/her incumbency.

**8.3** The GAMABA Executive Council shall have the following functions:

- a) Ensure the efficient implementation of the provisions in the GAMABA Act;
- b) Recommend the members of the Ad Hoc Panel of Experts for the approval of the NCCA board;
- c) Ensure coordination with the Cultural Mapping Unit, Philippine Registry of Cultural Property (PRECUP), SCCTA, School for Living Traditions (SLT) and other units of the NCCA who can provide information on traditional and folk artists;
- d) Undertake the implementation of the benefit program for awardees;
- e) Regularly monitor the status of the awardees;
- f) Plan and ensure implementation of programs on safeguarding, development and promotion of the works of the awardees; and,
- g) Perform other tasks assigned by the BOC.

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**Section 9.** A GAMABA Secretariat is hereby established to assist the Executive Committee Council in its day-to-day operations and shall have the following functions:

- a) Planning, organization and implementation of different activities for the selection, awarding, administration of benefits, development and promotion of the GAMABA;
- b) Enlistment of experts from various fields of traditional and folk arts to ensure that the awards are implemented in a successful and impartial manner;
- c) Establishment and maintenance of an updated database of experts on various traditional and folk arts;
- d) Performance of other tasks assigned by the GAMABA Executive Council or the BOC;



**Section 10.** The GAMABA Executive Council shall manage the conduct of the three (3)-level selection process for the GAMABA as follows:

1. **First level:** Screening, evaluation and selection by the Council of Experts, composed of a maximum of three (3) members from each of the categories as identified in the call, such as weaving, wood or metal works, chanting and others. The Council shall include GAMABA awardee(s) in above mentioned categories.

The Council of Expert members must:

- a) Be selected from traditional leaders, scholars, academicians, researchers, and other knowledgeable individuals;
  - b) Have authority, credibility and track record in their field(s) of expertise;
  - c) Have extensive knowledge of their field(s) and have a broader view on traditional and folk arts;
  - d) Be a recognized authority in the study or research of traditional and folk arts; and,
  - e) Be willing to sign a non-disclosure statement in order to safeguard the confidentiality of the deliberations.
2. **Second Level:** Screening, evaluation and selection by the **Ad Hoc Panel of Experts**, composed of one (1) representative from each of the identified categories and which shall not exceed a maximum of ten (10) members.
  3. **Third Level:** Screening, evaluation and selection by the **NCCA BOC**, composed of the current NCCA Board members.

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**Section 11.** The GAMABA Executive Council shall conduct the selection of the awardees in the following manner:

- a) The GAMABA secretariat, upon approval by the GAMABA Executive Council, shall announce the opening of nominations through media releases and sending of letters to qualified organizations inviting them to submit nominations.
- b) Candidates may be nominated under one traditional and folk art category where the artist made his/her most significant contribution;
- c) The categories open for nomination will be determined before the call for nomination.
- d) The submitted nominations shall be reviewed by the GAMABA Executive Council and Secretariat for completeness of submitted documents.



- e) Research and documentation teams will be tapped to do extensive research on the nominees and shall complete their research work within a maximum of six (6) months;
- f) A folio and a presentation for each nominee shall be prepared by the GAMABA secretariat from the output of the research and documentation;
- g) The Council of Experts shall be convened for the first level of review from which endorsement to the next level is expected;
- h) The Ad Hoc Council of Expert shall meet to evaluate the endorsements from the first level for endorsement to the NCCA BOC.
- i) The NCCA Board of Commissioners shall conduct the third level review of the nominees and a list of those endorsed shall be submitted to the Office of the President.
- j) It is requested that the President of the Philippines issues a declaration for those confirmed as Manlilikha ng Bayan or National Living Treasure;
- k) The NCCA shall organize the conferment of the award and a celebration in their community.

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**Section 12.** A member of the Council of Experts and Ad Hoc Panel of Experts who is related to a nominee up to the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity shall inhibit himself/herself from the deliberation process. The list of nominated members of the GAMABA Panel of Experts shall be submitted by the GAMABA secretariat to the NCCA Board for review and designation.

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**Section 13.** The GAMABA secretariat shall accept nominations in writing and with proper supporting documentation, and these will include:

- a. A cover letter signed by the head or designated representative of the nominating organization, which may be a non-government organization, a government agency, a local government unit, an academic institution, or a church or religious group;
- b. A duly accomplished nomination form;
- c. Detailed curriculum vitae of the nominee;
- d. A list of the nominee's significant works, categorized according to the criteria;
- e. Latest photograph (color or black and white) of the nominee;
- f. Pertinent information materials on the nominee's significant works (in CDs, VCDs and DVDs)



Nominations received beyond the announced deadline for submission shall not be considered.

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**Section 14:** The Manlilikha ng Bayan shall have the following privileges:

14.1 Benefits and privileges for the individual awardee:

- a) The rank and title of Manlilikha ng Bayan, as proclaimed by the President of the Philippines in accordance with Executive Order No. 236 or Honors Code of the Philippines;
- b) The GAMABA gold-plated medallion minted by the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* (BSP) and citation;
- c) A lifetime emolument and material and physical benefits comparable in value to those received by the highest officers of the land such as:
  - c.i A minimum cash award of Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP200,000.00), net of taxes.
  - c.ii A minimum lifetime personal monthly stipend of Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP50,000.00).
  - c.iii Medical and hospitalization benefits not exceeding PhP750,000.00 per year.
- d) A state funeral, the arrangements for and the expenses of which shall be borne by the Government, upon the death of the Manlilikha ng Bayan; and,
- e) A place of honor, in line with protocol precedence, in state functions, national commemoration ceremonies and all other cultural presentations.

14.2 Benefits and privileges for the group awardee

- a) The rank and title of Manlilikha ng Bayan, as proclaimed by the President of the Philippines in accordance with Executive Order No. 236 or Honors Code of the Philippines;
- b) The GAMABA plaque for the group;
- c) A one-time award of Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP200,000.00), net of taxes;
- d) The group shall designate its leader who will represent and attend events and functions on behalf of the group. The said representative will also have a place of honor, in line with protocol precedence, in state functions, national commemorations and ceremonies, and all other cultural presentations.



**Section 15.** The GAMABA is a link between the past, in which his/her/their traditional and folk arts found fertile soil for growth, and the future, during which he/she/they seek his/her/their art to be permanently sustained. It becomes his/her/their responsibilities therefore to undertake the following:

- a) to transfer the skills of his/her/their traditional and folk art to the younger generation through apprenticeship and other training methods found to be effective;
- b) to cooperate with the implementing agency, as provided for in Section 7 of RA 7355, in the promotion and propagation of his/her/their traditional and folk arts; and,
- c) to donate to the National Museum of the Philippines a sample, copy or documentation of his/her/their works.

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**Section 16.** The GAMABA Executive Council shall plan and establish programs for the documentation, archiving and promotion of the GAMABA and the sustainability of the tradition for which the awardee was recognized.

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**Section 17.** These IRR as amended shall take effect immediately upon approval by the NCCA BOC and publication.

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