

PAMBANSANG KOMISYON PARA SA KULTURA AT MGA SINING

ALADIN G. VILLACORTE

Assistant Secretary

Office of United Nations and Other International Organizations

Department of Foreign Affairs

January 9, 2007

Dear Mr. Villacorte:

Greetings from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA)!

As requested by Ambassador Jose Zaide, Philippine Permanent Delegate to UNESCO in Paris and per your letter of 29 November 2006, we wish to submit the following:

(1) Intangible Cultural Heritage *Proposed Criteria for Outstanding Universal Value:*

1. The nominated masterpiece must be couched in a unique tradition or expression, even if localized, that is universally understood and appreciated without the medium of spoken language (e.g. musical composition);
2. It must be a tradition that has survived the test of time (100 years);
3. It could be a new individual creative expression that is so unique it evolves new forms or human values that can stand the test of time;
4. It is a set of inter-related complex value systems and practices associated with a unique tangible object (e.g. the Malay kris, the Bontoc ato (dormitory) ward system);
5. It must be a practice that is socially viable and operable without contention within the value system of the people;
6. It must be a social practice of unique character that although in danger of disappearing due to diminishing practice, can still be revived;
7. It must be a practice of a level of societal integration or acceptance larger than that of a kin group (societal involvement);
8. The aspect of survival is under the condition of practice within proper social context and not merely a staged performance

It is also important that the nominated masterpiece has been properly documented by the concerned cultural institution, to include testimonies from practitioners and culture bearers, attesting to its cultural value and authenticity.

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NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS

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**Comments solicited by the 1st Intangible Heritage Committee:
PHILIPPINES**


(2) *Intangible Cultural Heritage Proposed Qualifications for the Accreditation of International/National NGOs to be tapped to serve as Advisory Bodies in the nominations:*

1. The NGO should be a non-partisan, non-profit educational institution in the areas of consultancy, research, advocacy, services for the conservation of heritage and the environment particularly, intangible heritage.
2. It should have been in active operation for at least five (5) years.
3. It should have facilities (library, laboratory, museum, field stations, etc.) that encourage education and research on heritage, particularly intangible, among scholars, students, and enthusiasts.
4. It should have a regular publication on anthropology, history, culture, arts and related topics on intangible heritage.
5. It should have an annual budgeted program for intangible heritage whether for documentation, promotion, training and/or exhibition
6. It should be acknowledged by the national and international heritage organizations as an authority in the conservation of heritage especially intangible heritage.
7. It should be composed by an able Administrative Secretariat with a veritable and highly respected pool of experts in the field of intangible heritage education.

We thank you for consulting the NCCA and hope that our inputs will be of value and relevance when discussed in the forthcoming meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

With best wishes for the New Year!

Sincerely,


AMBETH R. OCAMPO
Chairman

Cc.: H.E. Jose Abeto Zaide
Ambassador
Embassy of the Philippines, Paris
Philippine Permanent Delegate
UNESCO, Paris

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