

[**PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 208, June 07, 1973**]

GRANTING CERTAIN PRIVILEGES AND HONORS TO NATIONAL ARTISTS AND CREATING A SPECIAL FUND FOR THE PURPOSE.

WHEREAS, the arts and letters are under the patronage of the State, as embodied in the Constitution;

WHEREAS, the arts and letters are truly reflective of the national genius, in the manner that they are given expression by artists who can retrieve, for the nation, what is true and what is beautiful in Philippine culture; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Government to grant special privileges to National Artists, in recognition of their contributions to the cultural heritage of the country, as well as in encouragement of a spirit of excellence in the arts and letters;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution as Commander-in-Chief of all the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and pursuant to Proclamation No. 1081, dated September 21, 1972, and General Order No. 1, dated September 22, 1972, and in furtherance of Proclamation No. 1144, dated May 15, 1973, do hereby order and decree:

The following privileges and honors, among others, shall henceforth be made available to National Artists:

1. A cash award of ten thousand pesos (P 10,000) upon conferment of the award and decoration of National Artist;
2. A life pension of two thousand pesos (P2,000) payable monthly;
3. Medical and hospitalization benefits;
4. Coverage by a lifetime insurance policy in the amount of fifty thousand pesos (P 50,000) by the Government Service Insurance System and/or private insurance companies from date of conferment of the award, in the event the National Artist is insurable, the premiums for which shall be paid by the National Government or by donation from any governmental or private entities;
5. A place of honor in state functions, national commemoration ceremonies and all other cultural presentations; and
6. A State funeral, the arrangements for and the expenses of which shall be borne by the Government, upon the death of the National Artist.

In addition, the National Artists Awards Committee, composed of the members of the Board of Trustees of the Cultural Center of the Philippines created to administer the Award and Decoration of National Artist under Proclamation No. 1144, dated May 15, 1973, may authorize the disbursement of funds for the travel expenses of National Artists to and from the places where their works of art may be on official exhibition, for the benefit of the Philippine public.

Any person who has been conferred the award and decoration of National Artist shall, as a condition for the retention of such award and decoration, and the privileges and honors decreed hereunder remain a citizen of the Philippines.