

Manlilikha ng Bayan

NATIONAL LIVING TREASURES. Singled out in a nationwide continuing search, indigenous exponents of traditions in the field of craft and performance are declared national icons to be emulated as guardians who safeguard national cultural heritage. Thus far, the following National Living Treasures have been awarded the title “Manlilikha ng Bayan” (one who creates for the country) in the field of performance:



Musician,
Yakan,
Lamitan
municipality,
Basilan
island
province,
southern

Philippines. The near-blind but highly gifted musician of the Bohe Bessey in Lamitan, Basilan, **UWANG AHADAS**, is the recognized master of Yakan musical instruments in the whole of Basilan province.

He was proclaimed in 2000 for his virtuosity in playing Yakan musical instruments such as the *kwintangan*, *kwintangan kayu*, *gabbang*, *agung*, *tuntungan*, among others. He has devoted his life to the teaching of Yakan musical tradition.



Epic chanter,
Sulod-
Bukidnon,
Calinog
municipality,
Iloilo
province,
Panay island,

central Philippines. Reclining on a hammock in the traditional position of an indigenous storyteller, **FEDERICO CABALLERO** is unequalled in the scope of memory and finesse in the delivery of epic literature. He was proclaimed in 2000 for his mastery in chanting the epic poem, *Sugidanon*, the epic tradition of central Panay and for ceaselessly working for the documentation of the epics of his people, painstakingly piecing together the elements of this nearly lost oral tradition.



Musician
and dancer,
Kalinga,
Lubuagan
municipality,
Kalinga
province,
northern

Luzon island, northern Philippines. A tireless cultural conservator, **ALONZO SACLAG**, recreated an entire Kalinga traditional village complex as a living museum.

He was proclaimed in 2000, not only for his mastery of the Kalinga dance, musical instruments and the performing arts, but also for his persistence in creating and nurturing a greater consciousness and appreciation of Kalinga culture among the Kalinga themselves.



Artist
and poet,
Hanunoo
Mangyan,
Mansalay
municipality,
Oriental
Mindoro

province, central Philippines. Quiet and reclusive, **GINAW BILOG** is recognized for keeping the oral literature of his people alive to this day.

He was proclaimed in 1993 for safeguarding the ancient Hanunoo Mangyan script, which is now in the Memory of the Word Registry of UNESCO, and the unique *ambahan* poetry. He was also cited for promoting the *ambahan* on every occasion so that the art will be safeguarded for posterity. He passed away in 2003.



Musician
and epic
chanter,
Pala'wan,
Brookes
Point
municipality,
Palawan

island province, central Philippines. **MASINO INTARAY** heads a *basalan* ensemble that performs the indigenous music of his people, a virtual culture bearer of the Pala'wan.

He was proclaimed in 1993 for his exemplary skills in the *basal* or gong music ensemble and his versatility as musician, poet, epic chanter and storyteller of the *kulilal* and *bagit* traditions of the Pala'wan, making him a consummate artist.



Musician,
Maguindanao,
Mama
sa Pano
municipality,
Maguindanao
province,
western

Mindanao island, southern Philippines. A highly evocative person who can blend in, jamming with contemporary alternative musicians, **SAMAON SULAIMAN** is a rare virtuoso of the *kutyapi*.

He was proclaimed in 1993 for his outstanding artistry and dedication to this musical instrument, formally called the Maguindanao *kutyapi*, a two-stringed plucked lute, regarded as one of the most technically demanding and difficult to master among Philippine traditional instruments. He passed away in 2011.