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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 1393

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION
ON THE REPORTED COMPLAINTS OF HERITAGE CONSERVATION GROUPS OVER
RENOVATIONS ON THE CHURCH IN CALUMPIT, BULACAN

1 WHEREAS, the Constitution provides, in Article 14, Section 16: "All the country's
2 artistic and historic wealth constitutes the cultural treasure of the nation and shall be under the
3 protection of the State which may regulate its disposition";

4 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10066, otherwise known as the "National Cultural
5 Heritage Act of 2009" states:

6 Section 5. Cultural Property Considered Important Cultural Property. For
7 purposes of protecting a cultural property against exportation, modification or
8 demolition, the following works shall be considered important cultural property,
9 unless declared otherwise by the pertinent cultural agency:

....

10 Unless declared by the National Historical Institute,

11 (d) Works of national heroes;

12 (e) Marked structure;

13 (f) Structures dating at least fifty (50) years old....

14 WHEREAS, the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009 also states:

15 Section 15. Conservation of Cultural Property. All intervention works and
16 measures on conservation of national cultural treasures, important cultural
17 property, as well as national historical landmarks, sites or monuments and
18 structures previously marked by the National Museum and/or the National
19 Historical Institute before the implementation of this Act, shall be undertaken
20 through the appropriate cultural agency which shall supervise the same.

21 The appropriate cultural agency shall approve only those methods and
22 materials that strictly adhere to the accepted international standards of
23 conservation.

24 WHEREAS, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* on 1 June 2015 reported that heritage
25 advocates condemned recent renovations on the façade and belfry of Saint John the Baptist
26 Church in Calumpit, Bulacan;

1 WHEREAS, heritage advocates claimed that the renovations on the church, which is said
2 to be 400 years old and the oldest in Bulacan, were improper and disrespectful of the original
3 design of the edifice;

4 WHEREAS, the news quoted Jaime Corpus, former president of the Bulacan Heritage
5 Conservation Society, who said that the total renovation initiated by parish priest Proceso
6 Espiritu did not have approval of the Diocese of Malolos;

7 WHEREAS, only a retrofitting project was purportedly approved by the Diocese;


8 WHEREAS, heritage advocates allege that no expert advice was sought on how to
9 properly execute the renovation while preserving the structure's historical value;

10 WHEREAS, this issue brings to the fore the need to improve adherence to laws
11 governing the preservation of heritage structures;

12 WHEREAS, the Congress, in consultation with the National Historical Commission of
13 the Philippines, the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, and other relevant agencies,
14 should intensify laws aimed at improving the registry, monitoring, and preservation of heritage
15 structures in the country;

16 WHEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE to direct
17 the proper Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported
18 complaints of heritage conservation groups over renovations on the church in Calumpit, Bulacan.

Adopted,


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
jr

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