

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

SENATE  
P. S. Res No. 54



19 JUL 31 P4:16

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RECEIVED BY:

**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION, ENCOURAGING THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO COMPLETE THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (AHIA) ON THE BINONDO-INTRAMUROS BRIDGE PROJECT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PRESERVING WORLD HERITAGE SITES THROUGH BETTER URBAN PLANNING**

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Center is urging the Philippines to complete its studies on the potential impact of the planned construction of the Binondo-Intramuros “Friendship” bridge on heritage sites in the Walled City<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, on its 43<sup>rd</sup> session, encourages the Republic of the Philippines to continue close coordination and discussion among the National Commission for Culture and Arts, the Intramuros Administration, other cultural agencies and the Department of Public Works and Highways to ensure that the Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment (AHIA) is completed as soon as possible, and that all potentially affected heritage structures and all possible impacts on the San Agustin Church of Intramuros are taken into consideration as part of the design changes<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the bridge project made it to the headlines in 2018 over concerns it might endanger the world heritage status of the Baroque Churches of the Philippines—the official designation for San Agustin Church, San Agustin in Paoay, Ilocos Norte; Nuestra Señora de la Asuncion in Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur; and Santo Tomas de Villanueva in Miag-ao, Iloilo—because it may overstep Intramuros<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the Binondo-Intramuros bridge when completed, which is part of the “Build, Build, Build” infrastructure program will span the Pasig River, Connecting San Fernando Street in Binondo and Solano Street in Intramuros<sup>4</sup>;

<sup>1</sup> Philstar Bulletin News Website, UNESCO seeks complete studies on impact of China-funded 'Friendship' bridge, <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2019/07/03/1932002/unesco-seeks-complete-studies-impact-china-funded-friendship-bridge>

<sup>2</sup> UNESCO Website, UNESCO World Heritage Committee Report, 43<sup>rd</sup> Session, <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2019/whc19-43com-7BAdd-en.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Supra [Citation1]

<sup>4</sup> Inquirer News Website, Unesco advisory group warns vs planned Binondo-Intramuros bridge, <https://lifestyle.inquirer.net/301461/unesco-advisory-group-warns-vs-planned-binondo-intramuros-bridge/>

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Committee (WHC) noted that the Philippines has been taking steps to address the potential cultural impact of the project, including making sure only light vehicles are allowed to pass through Intramuros as well as planning to "pedestrianize the road adjacent to the church to mitigate the negative impact of additional traffic<sup>5</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, the WHC added that the AHIA are now urgent in order to understand fully the impact of the project and to define and elaborate mitigation measures<sup>6</sup>;

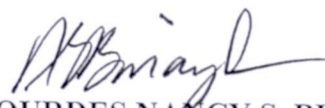
**WHEREAS**, according to the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the proposed bridge may negatively affect Intramuros' chances of becoming a World Heritage Site given that it has been nominated by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). It cited the case of the Waldschlösschen Bridge in Dresden, Germany, which resulted in the delisting of the City of Dresden in the World Heritage List in 2009<sup>7</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, it is high time that urban planning in the country should find a balance between development and preservation of important heritage sites and other national cultural treasures;

**WHEREAS**, safeguards should be established to ensure the preservation of World Heritage Sites and other national cultural treasures;

**BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** to direct the appropriate Senate committees to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the UNESCO World Heritage Committee recommendation, encouraging the Philippine Government to complete the Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment (AHIA) on the Binondo-Intramuros bridge project as soon as possible, with the end in view of preserving world heritage sites through better urban planning.

Adopted,



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY  
Senator

---

<sup>5</sup> Philstar Bulletin News Website, UNESCO seeks complete studies on impact of China-funded 'Friendship' bridge, <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2019/07/03/1932002/unesco-seeks-complete-studies-impact-china-funded-friendship-bridge>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Inquirer News Website, Unesco advisory group warns vs planned Binondo-Intramuros bridge, <https://lifestyle.inquirer.net/301461/unesco-advisory-group-warns-vs-planned-binondo-intramuros-bridge/>