

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



23 MAY 22 P2 :36

**SENATE**  
**P.S. RES. No. 627**

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by Senator Robinhood Padilla

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**RESOLUTION**

**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT FIRE INCIDENT AT THE MANILA CENTRAL POST OFFICE WITH THE AIM OF REVISITING AND STRENGTHENING POLICIES FOR THE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTIES AGAINST FIRE AND OTHER HAZARDS**

1 WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to conserve, promote,  
2 and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as  
3 artistic creations;

4 WHEREAS, the Manila Central Post Office Building, an iconic neo-classical  
5 building located at Liwasang Bonifacio, was designed in 1926 by two American  
6 architects, Ralph Doane and Tomas Mapua, and Filipino architect Juan Marcos de  
7 Guzman Arellano. Since then, it has served as the center of the Philippine postal  
8 services and the headquarters of then-Bureau of Posts until it was destroyed during  
9 World War II. The building was then rebuilt after the war in 1946;

10 WHEREAS, for almost a century, the Post Office Building has been known as  
11 the grandest building of its time and is currently known as one of the dominating  
12 landmarks at the heart of Metro Manila;

13 WHEREAS, the Cultural Properties Preservation and Protection Act, the National  
14 Museum Act of 1998, and the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009 mandate the  
15 National Museum of the Philippines (NMP) to declare Important Cultural Properties or  
16 National Cultural Treasures;

1           WHEREAS, in 2018, the NMP declared the Manila Post Office building as an  
2 "important cultural property", which is defined as a cultural property that has  
3 "exceptional cultural, artistic, and historical significance to the Philippines";

4           WHEREAS, on 21 May 2023 at midnight, a fire broke out at the Manila Central  
5 Post Office, causing significant damage to property, potential loss of important  
6 documents, and the eventual disruption of mail services;

7           WHEREAS, reportedly, the massive flames in the building reached General  
8 Alarm, which according to the Bureau of Fire Protection's (BFP) alarm level, means  
9 that the fire is affecting a major part of the infrastructure area;


10          WHEREAS, the Manila Central Post Office is a tangible representation of the  
11 nation's culture and history, and its damage is a blow to the country's cultural heritage;

12          WHEREAS, this recent incident underscores the vulnerability of our national  
13 cultural heritage to fire and other hazards and highlights the urgent need to revisit  
14 and assess the effectiveness of existing preservation and protection measures;

15          WHEREAS, it is of public interest to provide policies that will prevent or mitigate  
16 the effect of fire and other hazards to protect and preserve our national cultural  
17 heritage from: Now, therefore, be it

18          RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved, To direct the appropriate  
19 Senate committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the recent fire incident  
20 at the Manila Central Post Office with the aim of revisiting and strengthening policies  
21 and measures for the preservation and protection of cultural properties against fire  
22 and other hazards.

Adopted,

  
**ROBINHOOD PADILLA**  
Senator