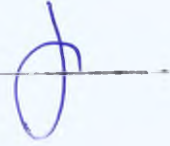


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

23 MAY 23 P4:16

SENATE  
P.S. Res No. 636

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



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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT THE RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION OF THE MANILA CENTRAL POST OFFICE WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING ITS CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION AS AN IMPORTANT CULTURAL PROPERTY**

**WHEREAS**, Article XIV, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates that "[t]he State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations;"

**WHEREAS**, Article XIV, Section 16 of the fundamental law further states that "[a]ll the country's artistic and historic wealth constitutes the cultural treasure of the nation and shall be under the protection of the State which may regulate its disposition;"

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 10066, otherwise known as the "National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009," provides that the state shall protect, preserve, and promote the nation's cultural heritage;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 4846, or the "Cultural Properties Preservation and Protection Act," declares that it is the policy of the state to preserve and protect important cultural properties and to safeguard their intrinsic value;

**WHEREAS**, the historic Manila Central Post Office caught fire on the evening of 21 May 2023, and incurred massive damage worth an initial estimate of P300 million;

**WHEREAS**, Postmaster General Luis Carlos said the building had been destroyed, “from the basement to the ground floor up to the fifth floor, with valuable works of art that were being copied for stamps as among the items presumed to have been destroyed;”

**WHEREAS**, the Manila Central Post Office Building, the center of the Philippine postal services and the headquarters of the then-Bureau of Posts has a rich history since it was completed in 1926;

**WHEREAS**, the Manila Central Post Office located at Liwasang Bonifacio is a neo-classical building designed by two Filipino architects and an American namely: Ralph Doane, Tomas Mapua, and Juan Marcos de Guzman Arellano;

**WHEREAS**, the National Museum of the Philippines recognized the Manila Central Post Office as an Important Cultural Property on November 24, 2018, having "exceptional cultural, artistic, and historical significance to the Philippines;”

**WHEREAS**, as an important cultural property, there must be a thorough and transparent investigation of the fire that caused the damage to the Manila Central Post Office, and immediately establish a conservation management and structural integrity plan for its protection, conservation, and restoration for its adaptive reuse;

**WHEREAS**, the management, ownership, and protection of the Manila Central Post Office must be transferred to government cultural agencies for the establishment of a cultural center and a hub for modern arts and creative industries;

**WHEREAS**, there must be a Manila Civic Center Masterplan which includes the Manila Central Post Office, Liwasang Bonifacio, Metropolitan Theater, Manila City Hall, National Museum Complex, Rizal Park, Arroceros Park, Pasig River, and other historic structures contained within;

**WHEREAS**, imbued with public interest, the concerned government agencies must conduct a thorough review and inspection of our tangible cultural property to establish and strengthen our heritage in a spirit of stewardship for the inspiration and benefit of the present and future generations;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES**, urging the national government to support the restoration and

rehabilitation of the Manila Central Post Office, with the end in view of ensuring its conservation and preservation as an important cultural property.

Adopted,



**LOREN LEGARDA**