

**FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)**

8 OCT -6 27:5

SENATE

RECEIVED BY



P. S. Res. No. 700

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE STATUS OF THE RENOVATION OF THE METROPOLITAN THEATRE IN MANILA WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DRAWING UP MECHANISMS TO GAIN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SUPPORT IN ORDER TO BREATHE LIFE BACK INTO THIS HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL GEM

Whereas, the Manila Metropolitan Theatre (Met) is an art deco building built in 1935 and designed by Filipino architect Juan M. de Guzman Arellano;

Whereas, the Met, in its heyday, held vaudeville, opera, plays, cultural and variety shows, concerts, beauty pageants, among other events;

Whereas, during the liberation of Manila by the United States and Filipino forces, the theater was totally destroyed in 1945;

Whereas, after reconstruction by the Americans it gradually fell into disuse in the 1960's and signs of decay became apparent in the following decades;

Whereas, the theatre was officially closed in 1996;

Whereas, after a long-running dispute on the issue of its ownership and management between the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the city government of Manila, a tripartite agreement (effective for 22 years), was signed with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) in 2004;

Whereas, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the allocation of P50-M through NCCA for the partial rehabilitation of the Met, P6 million of which earmarked for feasibility and engineering studies while P44 million went to City Hall, which is in charge of the actual restoration work;

Whereas, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim commits to restoring the Met, saying, "it is high time that the city government revive efforts to restore the old Metropolitan Theater to its old grandeur";

Whereas, the mayor created a six-man committee that will study the efforts, to be co-chaired by former Kapisanan ng mga Artista ng Pelikulang Pilipino (KAPP) president German Moreno, and Lim's chief-of-staff, Ric de Guzman; Manila Vice Mayor Isko Moreno, as vice chairman, and Councilor Edward Maceda, Laguna Rep. Dan Fernandez and historian Ambeth Ocampo as members;

Whereas, P250 million is needed for the full restoration of the Met; Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Senate Committees on Education, Arts and Culture, Local Government and other appropriate committees to inquire, in aid of legislation, into the status of the renovation of the Metropolitan Theatre in Manila with the end in view of drawing up mechanisms to gain private and public support in order to breathe life back into this historical and architectural gem.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR