

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
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Senate  
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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 317

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,  
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATE OF POLICIES INVOLVING  
RESTORATION, RECONSTRUCTION, PRESERVATION, AND DISASTER-  
PROOFING WORKS THAT MAY BE UNDERTAKEN ON THE COUNTRY'S  
CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

*WHEREAS*, on 15 October 2013, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck Central Visayas with its epicenter located some two kilometers southeast of Carmen, Bohol;

*WHEREAS*, the Baclayon Church in Tagbilaran, Bohol, which is considered one of the oldest churches in the Philippines, was greatly affected when its belfry was reduced to rubble and its façade incurred enormous cracks;

*WHEREAS*, the Church of San Pedro in Loboc, Bohol, which was originally built as early as 1602 and is one of the top tourist destinations in Bohol, suffered enormous devastation and wreckage to roughly eighty percent (80%) of its structure;

*WHEREAS*, in Cebu, the iconic Basilica Minore del Santo Niño sustained damage when its bell tower collapsed, while the Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral and St. Catherine's Church incurred weakening of their edifice and massive damage to their beautiful façades;

*WHEREAS*, there is a need to investigate the extent of the destruction suffered by these cultural treasures and historical landmarks located in the areas affected by the earthquake in order to determine whether or not reconstruction and restoration works can be undertaken over said structures and sites;

*WHEREAS*, there is a need to ascertain whether policies and programs should be initiated to ensure that our cultural and historical treasures are resilient to disasters and the extent of disaster-proofing that may be undertaken on them;

*WHEREAS*, damage to our cultural treasures and historical landmarks affect not only our Philippine heritage but may also threaten the lifeblood of the local tourism industry;

*WHEREAS*, there is a need to review the scope and implementation of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines' mandate to regularly assess the state of our heritage sites, which should include the active promotion of the protection of heritage sites from the forces of nature;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to craft further legislation that may aid in the preservation and conservation of our cultural and historical landmarks, as they sit precariously against natural disasters and to address the resulting loss brought about by any damage that may be suffered by them, as highlighted by this unfortunate calamity;

**WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, that the proper Senate committees be directed to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the state of policies involving restoration, reconstruction, preservation, and disaster-proofing works that may be undertaken on the country's cultural and historical landmarks.

*Adopted,*

  
MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID  
Senator