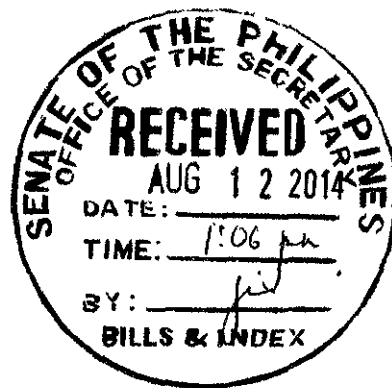


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 828

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF THE PHILIPPINES, TO INCLUDE THE *BASILICA DEL SANTO NIÑO OF CEBU* IN THE TENTATIVE LIST OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST AND TO IMMEDIATELY NOMINATE THE SAME FOR RECOGNITION AS A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE.

WHEREAS, the Basilica Del Santo Niño of Cebú is the oldest Catholic Church established in the Philippines and perhaps the whole of Asia and was the first symbol of Philippine Christianity, having been founded by an Augustinian priest, Rev. Andres de Urdaneta, on April 28, 1565¹;

WHEREAS, the Basilica Del Santo Niño of Cebú was purportedly built on the spot where the image of the Santo Niño de Cebú, a statue depicting the Holy Child Jesus was found in 1565 by Spanish explorers led by Miguel Lopez de Legazpi. The image is the same statue given by Ferdinand Magellan to the wife of Rajah Humabon as a gift over forty years after Humabon's baptism to Christianity on April 14, 1521. The image was found by a Spanish mariner/soldier, Juan de Camus, preserved in a burnt wooden box after Legazpi razed the village of hostile natives;

WHEREAS, the Basilica Del Santo Niño of Cebú permanently houses the Santo Niño of Cebú, said to be the oldest religious relic in the Philippines. The image is one of the most beloved and recognizable cultural icons in the Philippines, found in both religious and secular areas. The Santo Niño is replicated in many homes and business establishments, with different titles reinterpreted in various areas of the country and is venerated by many Catholics, who believe it to be miraculous;

WHEREAS, the Basilica Del Santo Niño of Cebú is also the focal point of a grand feast in Cebu locally known as the Fiesta Señor which starts on the Thursday after the Solemnity of the Epiphany and which culminates with the Sinulog Festival. The Sinulog is an annual cultural and religious festival held on the third Sunday of January in Cebu City, and is the center of the Santo Niño celebration in the Philippines. One of the main highlights of the festival is the grand street parade which lasts practically the entire day (from 9 to 12 hours) with participants coming from the different towns and cities of Cebu and from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao across the Philippines;

¹ Please see: The Official Website of the Basilica Minore Santo Niño de Cebú (accessed on 29 July 2014); http://basilicasantonino.org.ph/pages/basilica_complex.html.

WHEREAS, site of the Basilica Del Santo Niño of Cebú is also the site of another historical landmark of Cebu, Magellan's Cross, a Christian cross planted by Portuguese and Spanish explorers under the command of Ferdinand Magellan upon arriving in Cebu in the Philippines on (depending on source) March 31, 1521. The cross is housed in a structure next to the Basilica on Magallanes Street.

WHEREAS, the Basilica houses the Santo Nino Library, the Basilica del Santo Nino museum, and a Pilgrim center and is one of the prime tourist destination in Cebu. Moreover, the Church and Convent of Santo Niño was declared a National Historical Landmark in 1941². Likewise, on its 400th Year Anniversary, Pope Paul VI elevated the church to the dignity of a Minor Basilica in 1965 and acknowledged the temple "*the symbol of the birth and growth of Christianity in the Philippines.*"³

WHEREAS, considering its unparalleled background and rich history as well as its cultural and religious importance and significance not only to Cebuanos in particular and Filipinos in general but also to all of humanity, there is no doubt whatsoever that the Basilica Del Santo Niño of Cebu deserves to be nominated and inducted into the UNESCO's World Heritage List;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, for the Senate to urge the National Government, through the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, to include the Basilica del Santo Nino of Cebu in the Tentative List of the Philippines for the UNESCO World Heritage List and to immediately nominate the said Basilica for consideration as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Adopted,


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

² Please see: National Registry of Historical Sites and Structures in the Philippines (Accessed on 29 July 2014); <http://nhcphistoricsites.blogspot.com/search/label/Cebu%20City%20>.

³ Please see: Radio Message of Pope Paul VI on the Fourth Centenary of the Evangelization of the Philippines on Sunday, 02 May 1965 (Accessed on 29 July 2014): http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/speeches/1965/documents/hf_p-vi_spe_19650502_philippines_en.html