

SENATE

P.S. Resolution No. 253

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE TO STUDY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO PRESERVE HERITAGE SITES IN THE
PHILIPPINES AND TO FORMULATE POLICY MEASURES TO PREVENT
THEIR DEGRADATION AND PRESERVE THEIR INTEGRITY**

WHEREAS, The Preamble of the 1987 Constitution recognizes that the sovereign Filipino people ordains and promulgates the constitution in order to conserve and develop our patrimony, this imposes a responsibility on the part of the government to ensure the preservation of heritage sites for future generations;

WHEREAS, Article 4 of the United Nations Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage to which the Philippines is a party states that:

“Each State Party to this Convention recognizes that the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage referred to in Articles 1 and 2 and situated on its territory, belongs primarily to that State. It will do all it can to this end, to the utmost of its own resources and, where appropriate, with any international assistance and co-operation, in particular, financial, artistic, scientific and technical, which it may be able to obtain”;

WHEREAS, Article 1 of the said convention includes in its definition of heritage sites groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science, it covers works of man or the combined works of nature and man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view;

WHEREAS, the Philippines abounds with historical and cultural structures which are considered as heritage sites because of their unique architecture, use of native materials in engineering and artistic expression reflective of the syncretism that is Filipino culture;

WHEREAS, the Walled City of Intramuros and Fort Santiago was named by the Global Heritage Fund (GHF) as one of the 200 global heritage sites in the developing world that are facing “irreversible loss and damage”;

WHEREAS, in its report, the GHF cites “insufficient management and development pressures” as major causes of the continuous deterioration of the two remnants of the Spanish era structures in the Philippines;


WHEREAS, the study conducted by the GHF revealed that ninety percent of the loss and destruction of global heritage sites in the developing world are due to man made threats such as: development pressures, unsustainable tourism, insufficient management, looting, war and conflict;

WHEREAS, there are also reported renovations and improvements of heritage sites which use materials and designs which are so modern as to damage the cultural and material integrity of these sites;

WHEREAS, with the imminent loss and continuing deterioration of the aforesaid sites it becomes necessary to adopt measures in order to preserve these expressions of humankind's history, societal development and scientific progress;

NOW WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to direct the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture to study, in aid of legislation, government efforts to preserve heritage sites in the Philippines and to formulate policy measures to prevent their degradation and preserve their integrity

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR