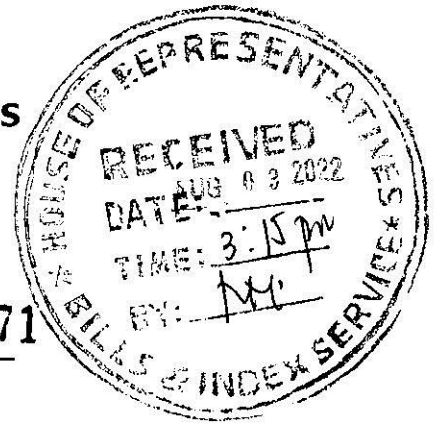


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 171



Introduced by Hon. Christopher V.P. de Venecia and Hon. Roman T. Romulo

A RESOLUTION

URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATE OF THE PHILIPPINE HERITAGE SITES IN LIGHT OF THE DEVASTATION BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE

WHEREAS, at 08:43 in the morning of the 27th of July 2022 (Wednesday), a major magnitude 7.0 earthquake shook the provinces in northwestern Luzon and adjacent areas including Metro Manila. The earthquake has an epicenter located 17.64°N, 120.63°E - 003 km N 45° W of Tayum (Abra) and a depth of 17 kilometers;¹

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) reported that about 15,300 people are currently displaced, with the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) staying in 43 evacuation centers or are being hosted by families and friends in the provinces of Abra, Ilocos Sur, Kalinga, Benguet and Mountain Province.

WHEREAS, about 11,100 of these Internally Displaced Persons are in Abra province where traumatized local residents also camped out of their homes as the earthquake was followed by over 1,000 aftershocks with a maximum of 5.0-magnitude. The government also confirmed the deaths of six individuals along with 136 injuries;²

WHEREAS, with damage and needs assessments now fully underway, disaster authorities reported that 24,547 houses and 177 health facilities were either damaged

¹ <https://www.phivolcs.dost.gov.ph/index.php/news/15355-m7-0-northwestern-luzon-earthquake-update-28-july-2022>

² <https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/philippines-abra-earthquake-flash-update-no-2-29-july-2022-3pm-local-time>

or destroyed. Some 263 schools sustained damages with 1,157 classrooms also either destroyed or damaged;³

WHEREAS, infrastructures were damaged across northern Luzon, including more than 400 homes, dozens of schools, several hospitals and bridges, and the centuries-old Vigan Cathedral and Banta Bell Tower, the Philippine News Agency (PNA) reported, citing the Office of Civil Defense (OCD);

WHEREAS, heritage structures in Vigan City, the best-preserved Spanish-style city in the Philippines, are damaged by the earthquake. The quake also damaged the walls and windows of Syquia Mansion, an ancestral home-turned-museum. The Hotel Linda and other houses in Vigan Heritage Village also reported minor damage;⁴

WHEREAS, a portion of the bell tower in Bantay, another town in Ilocos Sur province, received major damages. The quake also damaged the facade and ceiling of a church in San Juan. At least two other churches recognized by the National Museum of the Philippines as national cultural treasures were also damaged;⁵

WHEREAS, in Abra province, at the earthquake's epicenter, the 19th-century baroque Santa Catalina de Alejandria Parish Church, commonly known as the Tayum Church, was damaged, as was the San Lorenzo Ruiz Shrine in Bangued. Hundreds of aftershocks continued. The quakes also destroyed bridges, cars, and buildings and triggered landslides and rockslides;⁶

WHEREAS, there are various national laws that enable Filipinos to protect cultural heritage. It is primarily ingrained our 1987 Philippine Constitution, to wit: "the State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations";

WHEREAS, the invaluable importance of preserving our patrimony properly would absorb a sense of orientation from our historic and cultural foundations. The preservation of historic structures would essentially give meaning and color to the lessons of history and help us understand significant events in our country's past.

WHEREAS, the extent of the damage of our heritage and cultural sites brought about by the earthquake brings into light the overarching mandate of our government agencies in terms of heritage conservation and safeguarding;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, that the Committee on Basic Education and Culture, as well as other

³ *Ibid*

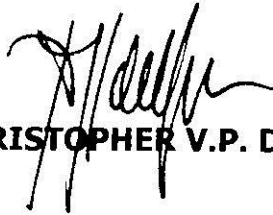
⁴ <https://english.news.cn/20220730/0e3016c0bf11472f8bf1528c35b10e9/c.html>

⁵ *Ibid*

⁶ *Ibid.*

appropriate committees of the House of Representative, be urged to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, to discuss the state of the Philippine Heritage Sites brought about by the earthquake, with the end view of addressing the government's intervention and mandates, as well as maximizing the government's effort in protecting, preserving, and safeguarding our heritage sites.

Adopted,



HON. CHRISTOPHER V.P. DE VENECIA



HON. ROMAN T. ROMULO