

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Senate

Manila City

Nineteenth Congress

First Regular Session



RESOLUTION No. 70

RESOLUTION CREATING A SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
THE REHABILITATION OF THE MANILA CENTRAL
POST OFFICE

WHEREAS, on 21 May 2023, at around 11:45 p.m., a massive fire broke out at the historic Manila Central Post Office resulting in the total destruction of the iconic building and famous landmark in Manila;

WHEREAS, as a result of the tragic and heart-breaking incident, the Philippines has lost an important piece of architectural heritage and national treasure, as well as significant cultural items housed in the postage stamp collection section of the majestic structure which is a valuable part of the country's rich history;

WHEREAS, the structure was originally built in 1926 using neoclassical design by renowned architects Tomas Mapua, Juan Marcos Arellano, and Ralph Doane to house the headquarters of the then Bureau of Posts;

WHEREAS, after being severely damaged during the battle of Manila in 1945, the Manila Central Post Office was rebuilt in 1946, and became the center of Philippine postal services, and served as the headquarters of the Philippine Postal Corporation for its mail sorting-distribution operations immediately prior to the fire;

WHEREAS, Article XIV, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution declares: "The State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creation";

WHEREAS, Article XIV, Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution also mandates: "All the country's artistic and historic wealth constitutes the cultural treasure of the nation and shall be under the protection of the State which may regulate its disposition";

WHEREAS, in 2018, the National Museum declared the Manila Central Post Office as an "important cultural property" for its "exceptional cultural, artistic, and historical significance to the Philippines", thus entitled to priority government funding for its protection, conservation, and restoration under Republic Act No. 10066, or the 'National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009';

WHEREAS, the Philippine Senate firmly believes that the national government and other concerned agencies must work together in the rehabilitation of the original structure of the Manila Central Post Office, a tangible reminder of the Philippine's rich history;

WHEREAS, Rule X, Section 14 of the Rules of the Senate provides that "Whenever necessary, special committees shall be organized, the membership and jurisdiction of which shall be determined by the Senate President": Now, therefore, be it

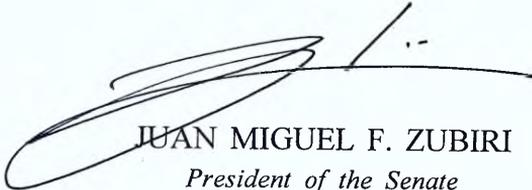
Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To create, as it is hereby creates, a Special Committee to be known as the "Senate Special Committee on the Rehabilitation of the Manila

Central Post Office”, which shall be tasked primarily to study, review, assess, examine, investigate, and inquire into the following matters relating to the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Manila Central Post Office:

- (1) Extent of damage to the Manila Central Post Office;
- (2) Estimated cost of reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Manila Central Post Office and its facilities;
- (3) Actions that must be taken for the immediate rehabilitation of the Manila Central Post Office; and
- (4) Such other matters that may be necessary for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Manila Central Post Office;

Resolved, further, That the Senate Special Committee on the Rehabilitation of the Manila Central Post Office shall submit a report to the Senate, together with its recommendations for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Manila Central Post Office, within ninety (90) days from the date it first convened.

Adopted,



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI
President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 31, 2023.



RENATO N. BANTUG Jr.
Secretary of the Senate