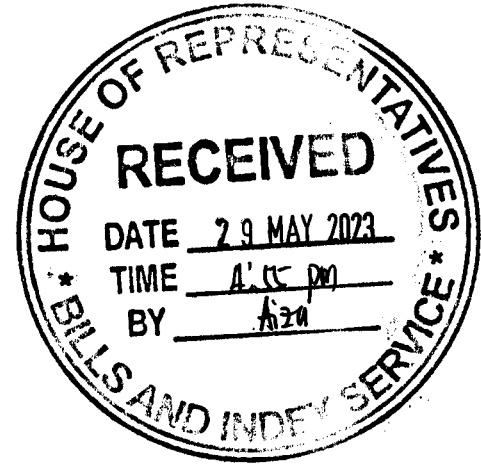


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8422



Introduced by Representative Ivan Howard A. Guintu

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 15, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides that “[t]he State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation’s historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations.” In recognition of this constitutional provision, Republic Act No. 10066 or the “National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009” was enacted. It provided for the conservation of cultural property which must strictly adhere to the accepted international standards of conservation.

On May 21, 2023, the Manila Central Post Office Building was gutted by a massive fire. The Manila Central Post Office, which was built in 1928, is a National Historical Landmark and an Important Cultural Property. This unfortunate and tragic incident that hit one of our heritage buildings is a great setback to the conservation of our nation’s cultural heritage.

To prevent other similar incidents in the future, this legislative measure seeks to strengthen the conservation of national historical landmarks, monuments and shrines by mandating the retrofitting of heritage buildings and structures to conform to the current structural safety and fire prevention standards as well as setting up other preventive measures against hazards that may cause damage or destruction to heritage buildings and structures.

In view of this, early passage of this bill is sought.


IVAN HOWARD A. GUINTU
Representative, BINUNO Partylist

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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HOUSE BILL NO. 8422

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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE CONSERVATION OF NATIONAL HISTORICAL
LANDMARKS, SITES AND MONUMENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10066,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT OF
2009”

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. A new Section 15-A is hereby inserted after Section 15 of Republic Act No. 10066 to read as follows:

“SEC. 15-A. Conservation of National Historical Landmarks, Sites and Monuments - The appropriate cultural agency shall implement measures for the conservation of all national historical landmarks, sites and monuments including heritage buildings and structures registered in the Philippine Registry of Cultural Property. The conservation of heritage buildings and structures shall include retrofitting heritage buildings and structures to conform to current structural safety and fire prevention standards as well as other preventive measures against hazards that may cause damage or destruction to heritage buildings and structures; *Provided,* That the retrofitting of heritage buildings and structures shall not substantially affect the distinctive features of such heritage buildings and structures;

SEC. 2. The amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, the funds shall be provided in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC 3. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Historical Commission, in coordination with the appropriate cultural agencies and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. If any provision or part of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 5. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,