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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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S E N A T E
P. S. Resolution No. 800

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Introduced by SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE TO INQUIRE AS TO THE STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S HERITAGE SCHOOL-BUILDING RESTORATION PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY ON THE CONSERVATION AND MAINTENANCE OF GABALDON SCHOOLHOUSES AND OTHER HERITAGE STRUCTURES WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION

WHEREAS, Article XIV Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution declares that the State shall conserve and promote the country's historical and cultural heritage and resources;

WHEREAS, Section 32 of Republic Act No. 10066 or the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009 provides that the Department of Education (DepEd) shall be responsible for the conservation and restoration of its built heritage which includes the Gabaldon school buildings as determined by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, under Memorandum Order No. 164 Series of 2009, the Department of Education created the Task Force on Heritage School Buildings to determine the heritage school houses across all regions and be responsible for their restoration;

WHEREAS, designed by American architect William Parsons and funded through Act No. 1801 authored by Philippine Assemblyman Isauro Gabaldon, the Gabaldon School Buildings or more popularly known as "Gabaldons" are "huge school buildings characterized by their high ceiling, spacious corridors and rooms that are divided by wooden collapsible partitions with wide windows made up of capiz shells";

WHEREAS, as built heritage structures, the Gabaldons represent historic, architectural and socio-political significance to the country, symbolizing the first foundation of the Philippine public school system during the American colonial regime, in which each Filipino child, even from the most remote areas of the country, had access to formal education;

WHEREAS, the restoration and adaptive reuse of Gabaldon school houses are not just for aesthetic purposes but can be used for their original use and a way to ease classroom shortage especially in the countryside;

WHEREAS, the success of the restoration of these structures can promote the concept of heritage conservation especially in the provinces where these built heritage remain standing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to direct the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture to inquire as to the status of the implementation of the Department of Education's heritage school-building restoration program, particularly on the conservation and maintenance of Gabaldon school houses and other heritage structures within its jurisdiction.

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA
Senator