



P.S. Res. No. 762

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Introduced by Senator Edgardo J. Angara

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A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ON GOING NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AND SINO LAND (HONG KONG) CO. LTD. TO SELL THE PHILIPPINE POST OFFICE BUILDING IN ORDER TO CONVERT IT INTO A HOTEL WITH THE END VIEW OF ENACTING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES RELATIVE TO THE PRIVATIZATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES AND TO IMPLEMENT THE FILIPINO FIRST POLICY ENSHRINED IN THE CONSTITUTION IN THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT ASSETS DECLARED AS PART OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

WHEREAS, the present Philippine Post Office Building was built in 1926 by Juan M. Arellano in neo-classical architecture, it was destroyed during World War II but was rebuilt in 1946;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Post Office Building was declared a Heritage Site by the National Historical Institute;

WHEREAS, at present, the Philippine Post Office Building is being used as the central office of the Philippine Postal Corporation;

WHEREAS, there has been news reports that the government is negotiating with Sino Land (Hong Kong) Co. Ltd., a foreign corporation, for the sale and conversion of the historical Philippine Post Office Building into a luxury hotel;

WHEREAS, a committee, headed by Department of Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, has been created to study the proposed sale and conversion;

WHEREAS, the Filipino First Policy embodied in Article XII, Section 10 par.2 of 1987 Constitution provides that "In the grant of rights, privileges and concessions covering the national economy and patrimony, the State shall give preference to qualified Filipinos."

WHEREAS, in the case of Manila Prince Hotel vs. GSIS, et al. (GR No. 122156), the Supreme Court, in interpreting the application of the Filipino First Policy held that national patrimony refers not only to natural resources but also to the cultural heritage of the Filipinos;

WHEREAS, the sale of the Philippine Post Office Building, being a historical landmark and part of the country's cultural heritage and national patrimony, must comply with the Filipino First Policy enshrined in the 1987 Constitution;

WHEREAS, Republic Act 10066 or the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009 is silent on the privatization of government assets declared as cultural heritage sites;

WHEREAS, there is a need to investigate the on-going negotiations for the sale and conversion of the Philippine Post Office Building, a heritage site, to Sino Land (Hong Kong) Co. Ltd., a foreign corporation, to pave way for further legislation in the privatization of government assets declared as cultural heritage sites and which will implement the Filipino First Policy enshrined in the 1987 Constitution.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to direct the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the on going negotiation between the Philippine Government and Sino Land (Hong Kong) Co. Ltd. to sell the Philippine Post Office Building in order to convert it into a hotel with the end view of enacting legislative measures relative to the privatization of cultural heritage sites in the sale of government assets declared as part of cultural heritage.



EDGARDO J. ANGARA