

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH (18TH) CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 70

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.**

RESOLUTION

**CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY INTO
THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE NATIONAL CULTURAL TREASURE ENTITLED
FILIPINO STRUGGLES THROUGH HISTORY, THE PRICELESS MASTERPIECE
BY NATIONAL ARTIST CARLOS "BOTONG" FRANCISCO,
FROM THE BULWAGANG ANTONIO J. VILLEGAS OF THE MANILA CITY HALL**

WHEREAS, then-Manila Mayor Antonio J. Villegas commissioned the National Artist Carlos "Botong" Francisco in 1968 to create a mural depicting the history of the City of Manila and its important role in the nation's history and development;

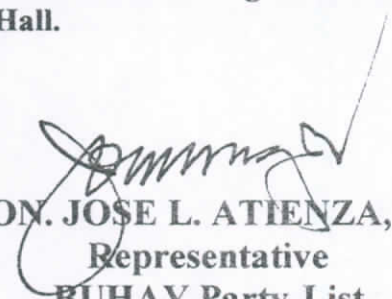
WHEREAS, the mural entitled **Filipino Struggles through History**, which has been hailed as Botong's last masterpiece and his greatest extant work of art, was installed in the Bulwagang Antonio Villegas of the Mayor's Office of the Manila City Hall;

WHEREAS, Botong Francisco's *obra maestra* as envisioned by Mayor Villegas, has always been a source of pride and inspiration for all Manilans and rightfully belongs to the City. This is exactly the purpose of Mayor Villegas who appropriated public funds and commissioned the painting. No one has the right to loan or or lend it to anybody. It must be returned to its original place in the Bulwagan in deference to the Mayor who, in his patriotic and cultural vision, had it made;

WHEREAS, this masterpiece which was declared a National Cultural Treasure in 1996, disappeared from the Bulwagan 12 years ago and has not been returned to the City of Manila until now. It has been replaced by a tarpaulin replica;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives of the Philippines, to call for an immediate Congressional Inquiry into the disappearance of the National Cultural Treasure entitled Filipino Struggles through History, the priceless masterpiece by National Artist Carlos "Botong" Francisco, from the Bulwagang Antonio J. Villegas of the Manila City Hall.

Adopted,


HON. JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
Representative
BUHAY Party-List