



Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
Manila

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DEPARTMENT ORDER )

No. **138** )  
Series of 2014 )


**SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION FOR HISTORICAL SITES  
AND STRUCTURES IN THE PREPARATION  
OF DESIGN PLANS AND ADDITIONAL  
CONSTRUCTION AFFECTING CULTURAL  
HERITAGES**

The preservation of historical sites and structures is a national concern. The relics of the past are national treasures which must be preserved, restored and enhanced for the benefit of this and future generations.

The National Commission for Culture and Arts (NCCA), as the primary agency concerned with the formulation on arts and culture, is calling the attention of all concerned agencies and the general public on the management of the country's public spaces regarding the construction of any activities affecting the integrity of historical and cultural sites. Section 32, Item e of **Republic Act 10066** otherwise known as the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009, states that "*The Department of Public Works and Highways which shall be responsible in undertaking major infrastructure projects specifically in the planning, design, construction and maintenance of national roads and bridges as they impact on heritage structures or aspects of heritage conservation*" shall consult, coordinate and work closely with the NCCA in the implementation of their programs/projects.

Henceforth, to ensure proper protection and preservation of our cultural identity and patrimony, and to avoid unnecessary delays, revisions and alterations during construction, all Regional Offices/Project Management Offices/District Engineering Offices are hereby directed to consult and coordinate with NCCA in conducting feasibility studies for the design or improvement of infrastructure projects.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

  
**ROGELIO L. SINGSON**  
Secretary

Department of Public Works and Highways  
Office of the Secretary



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of national cultural treasures and national historical landmarks, sites or monuments. These areas shall be subject to periodic re-assessment whenever necessary.

For purposes of this Act, the following shall be the responsibilities of cultural agencies in the categorization of cultural property:

- (a) The Cultural Center of the Philippines shall be responsible for significant cultural property pertaining to the performing arts;
- (b) The National Archives of the Philippines shall be responsible for significant archival materials;
- (c) The National Library shall be responsible for rare and significant contemporary Philippine books, manuscripts such as, but not limited to, presidential papers, periodicals, newspapers, singly or in collection, and libraries and electronic records;
- (d) The National Historical Institute shall be responsible for significant movable and immovable cultural property that pertains to Philippine history, heroes and the conservation of historical artifacts;
- (e) The National Museum shall be responsible for significant movable and immovable cultural and natural property pertaining to collections of fine arts, archaeology, anthropology, botany, geology, zoology and astronomy, including its conservation aspect; and
- (f) The Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino shall be responsible for the dissemination development, and the promotion of the Filipino national language and the conservation of ethnic languages.

**Section 32. *Institutional Linkages of the National Cultural Agencies.*** - The cultural agencies and other national government agencies, as listed below, shall consult, coordinate and work closely with the Commission in the implementation of their respective programs/projects in the context of this Act. Furthermore, the Commission may link up with other agencies and institutions, as it may deem appropriate, as a way of dealing with conservation in a holistic manner:

- (a) The Department of Tourism and its attached agencies which shall be responsible for cultural education among tourism services, and protection of cultural properties supplemental to the jurisdiction of the cultural agencies as defined in this Act. The implementation and creation of a tourism master plan shall be consistent with this Act;
- (b) The Intramuros Administration which shall be responsible for the restoration and administration of the development in Intramuros;
- (c) The National Parks Development Committee as an attached agency of the Department of Tourism which shall be responsible in supervising the development (beautification,

preservation and maintenance) of the Quezon Memorial, Fort Santiago, Luneta, Paco Park, Pook ni Maria Makiling and other national parks and satellite projects;

(d)The Department of Education which shall be responsible in instituting the governance of basic education act, and the conservation and restoration of its built heritage such as the significant Gabaldon school buildings as determined by the National Historical Institute;

(e)The Department of Public Works and Highways which shall, be responsible in undertaking major infrastructure projects specifically in the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of national roads and bridges as they impact on heritage structures or aspects of heritage conservation;

(f)The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, in behalf of the country's indigenous cultural communities, which shall coordinate with the national agencies on matters pertaining to cultural properties under its jurisdiction;

(g)The Department of Environment and Natural Resources which shall be responsible for the establishment and management of the National Integrated Protected Areas System and the conservation of wildlife resources, including cave and cave resources and which shall coordinate with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, the conservation of natural resources that are cultural sanctuaries of indigenous peoples;

(h)The Department of the Interior and Local Government which shall coordinate with the national cultural agencies on matters pertaining to cultural properties under its jurisdiction, and ensure that the provisions of this Act is properly executed by the local government unit;

(i)The Office on Muslim Affairs which shall coordinate with the national cultural agencies on matters pertaining to cultural properties under its jurisdiction;

(j)The UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines which shall be responsible for providing the liaison between the cultural agencies of the Philippines and the UNESCO as well as assist the national cultural agencies in implementing the agreements and conventions adopted by the UNESCO of which the Philippines has ratified or is in the process of ratification;

(k)The Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board which shall coordinate with the local government units and the Commission on matters pertaining to the establishment and maintenance of heritage zones;

(l)The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and the Cordillera Administrative Region which shall coordinate with the national cultural agencies on matters pertaining to cultural properties under their respective jurisdictions; and