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 It has been replaced by a tarpaulin replica;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