

The Role of the National Government in the Preservation of the World Heritage Site of Crisologo Street Vigan Ilocos Sur Philippines

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Abstract—The Crisologo Street situated in Vigan City is the last surviving site in the Philippines depicting urban planning and architecture that reflects the mixture of different cultural imprints on the Filipino heritage including Spanish urban planning with authentic 19th to the early 20th century architecture existing in a landscape that continues to show traces of its original setting. This research was conceived due to the alarm caused by the catastrophe that hit the Visayas region last 2013 which destroyed most of the heritage sites in the region and thus, being inside what is held as World Heritage Site, this is an attempt to study the role of the national government in the preservation of Crisologo Street. This study presents comprehensive data that will prove the effectiveness of R.A. 10066 and that the preserved Crisologo Street is a manifestation of effective deputation of power and control starting from the national government down to the local government and the locals themselves. This study aims to instill, especially to the Filipinos that efforts and endeavors to preserve heritage sites such as Crisologo Street is not only a way to boost nationalism, patriotism and sense of pride, but also a tool for economic development.

Keywords—world heritage site; vigan; crisologo street; national government; preservation; local government unit; R.A. 10066

I. INTRODUCTION

Heritage is part of a common past; it is a source of the community identity. Working at the preservation of heritage contributes to strengthen a common sense of identity within a community. Through the recognition of the past, preservation of heritage helps in the preparation of a better future. Heritage, when well-managed, can become a tool to share experiences, exchange know-how and to integrate local communities into international networks.

The National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009, an act providing for the conservation of the country's national cultural heritage, to be undertaken by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and its affiliated cultural agencies, was signed into law by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on March 26, 2010. Then known as the Heritage Bill in the Senate, the said bill was principally authored by Sen. Edgardo Angara and passed through the the support of fellow

senators Richard Gordon, Loren Legarda and Mar Roxas. In the House, the counterpart measure was sponsored by Cong. Juan Angara. All of these objectives are for the purpose of preserving the Filipino identity for its people of the present and its future generations.

Safeguarding outstanding cultural sites and monuments is an essential aspect of the preservation of cultural identity [1]. Crisologo Street, situated in the UNESCO-declared cultural heritage site of Vigan, is of great significance because of its aesthetic, historic and social value. As the Philippines and the rest of the world are running towards development, cultural heritage preservation nowadays is a matter often getting moved to the sidelines. One of the critical challenges of urbanisation in developing countries is how to rein in the environmental impacts of progress with the need to maintain one's sense of social history, culture and heritage [2]. Cultural heritage preservation is a matter that should be prioritized. With the happenings in Bohol and Cebu regarding the destruction of Historical Sites, it is important that the actions and measures taken by the National Government and Local Government Units shall be re-evaluated.

A. Cultural Heritage Preservation

The Philippines has a rich history beginning from its earliest days as one of the busiest trading posts in South East Asia and later, in the trans-Pacific galleon trade. A period of Spanish colonization spanning three centuries then made an indelible impression on the country. This mercurial era, along with the American occupation, played a vital role in shaping the Philippines and its people.

A vivid past has left its mark all over the archipelago in many different forms that present-day visitors to the country are now discovering. In a country like the Philippines, where history is kept alive, one doesn't need to go far to travel back in time. Cultural heritage includes tangible inheritance, the land, seas, fauna and flora and other natural resources, including the hazards, dangers and pitfalls in these islands. We inherit monumental edifices, ruins, three trillion foreign debts (as of 2005), slums and garbage, pollution, and prevailing social and economic disparities between social – economic classes [3].

Preservation when it comes to cultural heritage includes manners associated with maintaining library, archival or museum materials for use whether in their original physical appearance or some other form. Protection of cultural property is done through activities that reduce chemical and physical descent and damage and to avoid loss of informational content. The initial aspiration of preservation is to prolong the existence of cultural property. A heritage consists of legendary artifacts, history, cultural relics and monuments of our forefathers that are being preserved for generations yet intended to give lessons from the past: be it good or bad. Through preserving the cultural heritage since the dark days of slavery to colonialism and up to present day will go a long way in the explanation of rich cultural, political, social and educational values to the next generations.

There is growing evidence that cultural heritage preservation bears benefit in many aspects of life. The rising concern in the links between cultural heritage preservation and mainstream societal concerns such as development, environment, health, education, access to information, construction and the economy is as plain as a pikestaff. In the area of economic development, multilateral development banks, bilateral development agencies, institutions and individuals involved in development programmed have acknowledged the vital need to aid developing countries in preserving their cultural resources and assets, and moreover to transmit cultural values to development. In the area of the environment, preservation and re-use of historic buildings in urban areas has not only took about improvements in the exterior of city centers, but also in air worth for human health and heritage preservation because of the insist for improved transport planning that has been generated. Meanwhile, critical levels of pollution are dissimilar for cultural heritage and human exposure, both benefit from decrease of pollution in the urban environment [4].

When it comes to the area of education and access to information, research on preservation is playing a vital part in releasing the information enclosed in objects and interpreting them to the public. The National Curriculum in the UK uses collections as part of science teaching, drawing on preservation to predict, hypothesize and test material types and uses. Museums in urban areas are becoming focal points for contact, not only to collections, but for information in general and other services. This is helping to arouse the social and material vigor of areas around museums. In the area of construction, it has been estimated that 50% of all building refurbishments in European cities relate in some way to heritage preservation. Refurbishment of historic city centers provides the funds for social revitalization of communities and neighborhoods. Physical access to historic buildings is a key factor in improving social inclusion, an important indicator of quality of life.

In the local economy, cultural heritage has an impact on economic wealth, such as the effect of cultural tourism on local businesses. For example, The South-West Museums Council in England's report on 'The Economic Contribution of Museums in the South-West' (the second largest region in England) describes the enormous effect that cultural heritage has on local communities: motivating small and medium sized enterprises,

developing new technologies and markets and promoting tourism and private investment.

B. Crisologo Street and the National Government

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), Philippines is the overall policy making body, coordinating, and grants giving agency for the preservation, development and promotion of Philippine arts and culture. The NCCA was created to serve as the presidential inter-agency commission to coordinate cultural policies and programs. Under this was policy in which the Senate and House of Representatives enacted and was catalyzed. According to RA No. 10066 (March 26, 2010), [National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009], The National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009, an act providing for the conservation of the country's national cultural heritage, to be undertaken by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and its affiliated cultural agencies, was signed into law by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on March 26, 2010. Then known as the Heritage Bill in the Senate, the said bill was principally authored by Sen. Edgardo Angara and passed through the support of fellow senators Richard Gordon, Loren Legarda and Mar Roxas. In the House, Cong. Juan Angara sponsored the counterpart measure [5].

Resource identification, community participation, and value generation ensure sustainable development. It is institutionalized through statutory protection. For heritage protection, a conservation guideline is a set of technical standards for the place and its fabric developed by experts and legislators to be adopted by the community. While a heritage charter, on the other hand, is a generally agreed set of conservation concepts, policies and practices to be adopted by the community and conservation professionals. Heritage protection is grounded on principles and policies that would preserve the significance of heritage and guide the community in its proper utilization. There are general principles and heritage specific principles in conservation. For a heritage legislation, which is more of a guideline, the Vigan Municipal Ordinance No. 4, passed in 2000 when Vigan was declared as World Heritage Site, is the best example. Although enacted as a municipal legislation, it is more of a compilation of material and technical standards applicable to 19th century Vigan houses. Thus, for restoration projects, the standards for roof, walls, beams, floors and other architectural details have been set.

After the cultural mapping project, a milestone output was the amendment and revision of the Vigan Conservation ordinance. Highlights of the revised ordinance included the setting of the statement of significance for all built heritage projects, the definition of conservation terms in the ordinance, the reconstitution of the Vigan Conservation Council and the allocation of annual heritage fund of the city [6].

II. METHODOLOGY

This study entitled "The Role of National Government in the Preservation of Crisologo Street, the Heritage Site in Vigan, Ilocos Sur" is a qualitative research that attempts to accumulate existing information and updates on data regarding the proper

preservation, conservation, protection and promotion of its cultural heritage. This study wishes to depict the phases in the development and evaluation of the current condition of the sites and its structures with a significant historical background and contributions to the Philippines. It also analyzes the ground plan of the cultural heritage site, Calle Crisologo and the extent of its influence over the Filipinos and other nationalities and some current concerns. The researchers decided to use the qualitative approach in order to examine the government institutions involved with historical/cultural heritage preservation and know their projects and systems.

Policy analysis will be the main system of this research. This procedure is a written policy advice that leads to the formulation of a decision in the government level. Policy Analysis also scrutinizes the arguments, delineates the predicaments and goals and analyzes the execution of a particular policy.

This will entail a series of interviews of lawmakers and representatives of local government units and organizations of what made them decide to turn heritage preservation into law and what measures they undertake to implement the law respectively, a thorough inspection of the site, and a meticulous study of RA 10066.

Descriptive Research will be applied in the study regarding the preservation of Crisologo Street for this will help in the assessment of current conditions of the chosen heritage sight.

Historical research will also be applied in the study through systematic examination of the past nuances, personalities and ideas that have influenced the current conditions of Calle Crisologo.

The researchers have chosen four different methods to be utilized in this study with regards to the preservation of Crisologo Street. The review of documents and or secondary data, interviews, through interviews, and seminars.

Reviewing of documents and secondary data were utilized in such a fashion that researchers gathered documents and previous written works by scholars regarding the preservation of Vigan's Crisologo Street. This facilitated the determining of existing information available and what can probably improve on with the research. This also assisted the researchers in choosing what methods and techniques to use to make the research much more efficient and accurate.

The use of interviews in conducting the research is imperative as this gave a clearer idea as to, for example, what made the lawmakers decide that the Filipino nation needed a law such as RA 10066 in terms of preserving the historical heritage, or what measures do the local government units undertake to ensure that this law is implemented in their respective geographical scope and what projects do government and non-government organizations promote in order to make people more aware about the preservation of historical heritage.

Moreover, observation was employed in the research as this assisted the researchers throughout the heritage site, Vigan's Crisologo Street assessments. The researchers observed the Crisologo Street and assess if RA 10066 has been effective so

far in preserving the heritage site and if local government unit and organizations have been pervasive in the implementation and promotion of the preservation of the said site. This has given the researchers a firsthand experience and be of assistance to produce factual results.

Lastly, the researchers attended a seminar that was held last December 11-13, 2013 at the Vigan Conservation Center as an additional source of information with regards to their current study. The seminar was about the National Training on Culture – Based Governance which was mainly about conservation of heritage and cultural sites including its processes and its positive implications on development. It also tackled disaster risk management plans as a preparation for unexpected catastrophe like those which hit the Visayas region last 2013 which the researchers perceive as a significant information for this research.

The analysis of all of the data gathered will be executed in a narrative manner. The reserachers will collate the data necessary for the successful execution of the research to be done through site inspections, interviews and review of documents and present whatever outcome that may emerge through the chosen method. The researchers will also include narratives of previous researchers to contribute more information about their topic.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The data gathered from the National Commission for the Culture and the Arts, National Museum of the Philippines, National Historical Commission of the Philippines, the City Engineering Division and the locals in Vigan in relation to the research discusses the results regarding the information and updates of the cultural heritage. Ten interviewees have contributed in the study and have convened several important details. Before the initiation of the research study, the significance, rationale and purpose of the study were provided to the interviewees. Furthermore, they have also been given the assurance that all the data they will give are used for the purpose of the research.

The flow and distribution of power from these institutions, and its effectivity in Crisologo Street, starting from the international to national level down to the local level are as follows: Firstly, on the international level, UNESCO was appointed by the World Heritage Committee to serves as its secretariat. They offer support for special programs such as LEAP (Integrated Community Development and Cultural Site Preservation through Local Effort in Asia Pacific). On the national level comes first the National Commission for the Culture and the Arts. According to the IRR of RA 10066, Rule IX, Sec. 34.1, the commission will administer and execute the provisions of this Act (RA 10066) not otherwise assigned to particular cultural agencies and any and all acts to be referred or delegated by the cultural agencies. The NCCA is the overall policy making body, coordinating, and grants giving agency for the preservation, development and promotion of Philippine arts and culture. The Commission, together with either the NM or the NHCP shall closely collaborate with UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines in ensuring the conservation and management of world heritage sites of cultural and mixed

sites category. Under the Standards of conservation for WHS, the WHS shall be subject to the highest standards of conservation and management prescribed by the WH Convention, its operational WH Committee, to ensure the safeguarding and sustainability of its Outstanding Universal Values over time. In no manner shall the Outstanding Universal Value, its authenticity and integrity be allowed to be compromised. The NCCA is concentrating on a series of awareness programs and skills training workshops. It also has a power to monitor World Heritage Sites-- the Commission shall continuously monitor the condition of the sites with the NM and the NHCP and collaborate with the site managers and the Local Government Units. The Conservation Management Plan of NCCA entails that it ensures all WHS have a Management Plan that shall be prepared according to the requirements of WH Convention and its Operational Guidelines and shall contain provision for protection, management and conservation of the WHS. The Management Plan shall be implemented by all sectors involved in the conservation, management and protection of the WHS including other non-government stakeholders of the property. The Conservation Management Plan shall be subject to regular evaluation and review by the Commission. Meanwhile, the Technical Assistance includes that NCCA, NM or NHCP, as appropriate, may provide technical assistance to stakeholders and local government units with property in the tentative list for the preparation of the necessary documents and dossier required for inscriptions in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Visitorial Powers states that the cultural agencies concerned are given the power to inspect National Cultural Treasures and Important Cultural Properties, and national historical landmarks, sites or monuments at any time to ensure the protection and integrity of such. They may also inspect public collections or objects that may be categorized as cultural property; Provided, that in case of private collections or objects, the prior written consent of the owner shall be obtained. The periodic monitoring shall be undertaken by the Commission using experts from the National Museum or National Historical Commission of the Philippines or members of the appropriate National Committee.

The next institutions held complementary powers in preservation: The National Museum and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines. The NHCM, under the RA 10066, Article VIII, Sec. 31, d. (Responsibilities of Cultural Agencies for Designation of Cultural Property), was accounted responsible for the designation of significant movable and immovable cultural property that pertains to Philippine history, heroes and the conservation of historical artifacts. NHCP was also given the power to ensure the conservation and management of world heritage sites of cultural and mixed sites category, in the Philippines and to monitor WHS. The National Museum or the NHCP, as appropriate, both may provide technical assistance to stakeholders and local government units with property in the tentative list for the preparation of the necessary documents and dossier required for inscriptions in the UNESCO World Heritage List and this is under the Technical Assistance (IRR of RA 10066, Rule IV, Sec. 9.5). The National Museum, under RA 10066, Article VIII, Sec. 31, e. (Responsibilities of Cultural Agencies for Designation of Cultural Property), 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. Other responsibilities that are in collaboration with NHCP and NCCA are already mentioned above. The Department of Tourism also have a role in the preservation of the Crisologo Street. In August 1995, through the initiative of the DoT, E.O. No. 358 was promulgated creating a Presidential Commission for the restoration, conservation and preservation of the Vigan Heritage Village whose main function is to supervise the planning, implementation, management and monitoring of the development efforts of the Vigan Heritage Tourism Complex. The DoT carries out planning, promotion and marketing for the tourism industry. Under the PD No. 260, DoT was mandated to collaborate with the NM and NHI in the control and supervision of the nation's cultural properties.

For the powers of Local Government Units to preserve, it was stated in the RA 10066, Article IV, Sec. 13 (Maintenance of Heritage Zones), that a heritage zone shall be maintained by the local government unit concerned, in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Implementation of adaptive reuse of cultural property;
- Appearance of streets, parks, monuments, buildings, and natural bodies of water, canals, paths and barangays within the locality shall be maintained as close to their appearance at the time the area was of most importance to the Philippine history as determined by the National Historical Institute; and
- Local government units shall document and sustain all sociocultural practices such as, but not limited to, traditional celebrations, historical battles, recreation of customs, and the re-enactment of battles and other local customs that are unique to the locality.

There are also ordinances implemented in Vigan for preservation, including that which of Crisologo Street. Such ordinances are as follows: Ordinance No. 12 of 1997; An Ordinance defining the historic town of Vigan and the Historical, Cultural, Education, Aesthetic and Economic Parameters of Its Preservation and Development. Ordinance No. 14 of 1997 which provides guidelines in the conservation of the historic town of Vigan; and Ordinance No. 4 of 2000, an ordinance enacting the preservation and conservation guidelines for Vigan Ancestral Houses.

The locals, too, has a part to play in the preservation of their heritage site. They are included in the implementation of Conservation Management Plan and also in SVAHAI (Save Vigan's Ancestral Homes Association, Inc.) SVAHAI was organized to empower homeowners and enable their active participation in the conservation programmed of the City Government. All matters pertaining to safeguarding and conservation of the protected zones are brought to the attention its members. Published jointly by the City Government and UNESCO, a Heritage Homeowner's Manual has been distributed to homeowners to empower them in the proper maintenance of their historic properties. The Manual is a practical and user-friendly management tools to guide the custodians in the maintenance, repair and adaptive re-use of

their historic properties, thereby promoting responsible stewardship of their heritage.

Angel Bautista stated that the umbrella cultural agency, the National Commission for Culture and Arts, is responsible for the policy making and funding of rehabilitation and preservation of cultural properties and under the NCCA are cultural agencies like the National Museum, National Historical Commission of the Philippines, National Library, National Archives, and Commission on Wikang Pambansa and Cultural Center of the Philippines. The heads of these cultural agencies are actually members of board of Commissioner of the NCCA, during the board of Commissioner's meeting, they can make policies, they can approve programs for the protection of tangible and intangible, movable and immovable. National Government, like the National Museum spearheads the declaration of cultural properties into a national cultural treasure and important cultural property. National Cultural Treasure are cultural property with outstanding historical, aesthetic, technological, scientific and cultural values, while important cultural properties are cultural properties that are exemplary, but not so outstanding compared to national cultural treasure. The process for both is first: there is a petition from the owner or an assessment done by the National Museum, so there will be a documentation of the cultural property, gathering of information, stakeholder's meeting, then if the information gathered is enough for the declaration, the director of the National Museum will create panel of experts that will evaluate and deliberate the documents, prepare the resolution then public declaration as National Cultural Treasure [7].

According to Eric Zerrudo, there are two to three levels of preservation and maintenance in Vigan. UNESCO provides technical assistance and promotion while the National Government are involved with organizing important conventions held in Vigan. Ma. Luisa Valerio from the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, furthermore stated that the local government in Vigan requested the input and aid of NHCP for technical assistance, international guidelines and establishment of the buffer zones. It was a joint effort between the NHCP with the full efforts and complete support of the local government units in Vigan. The LGU formed its own ordinance with the help of the NHCP before forwarding it to UNESCO. This included parameters for preservation and the transferring of technology from NHCP to the LGU. Before that, the LGU used to send the restoration plans to NHCP but that got very time-consuming, until such time they realized they needed start writing their own guidelines. The weakness of a heritage site lies in the absence of support, promotion and efforts from the LGU [8]. The city is a different case among all other heritage sites in the Philippines because preservation and maintenance came from the efforts of the local government and its people when they realized that development must come from their own effort and not depending on the National Government. The Vigan Local Government has primary role in the preservation and maintenance. First is the monetary support, second is Legislation - Ordinance on Health on Business with entertaining visitors, on homeowners preserving houses in

Crisologo Street and in Vigan as a whole and third, trainings and events which are organized by LGU and the Council [9].

Vigan on its own have efforts of preservation and its projects need not to be approved by the National Government. Some museums in Vigan are still handled by the National government like the Syquia Mansion (NHCP) and Burgos Museum (NM) but generally all efforts are coming from the local government. Other heritage sites in the Philippines are still dependent on the National Government. Budget comes from the National Commission for the Culture and the Arts and money is given to National Museum or National Historical Commission. NCCA is technically a policy making body, and National Museum and Historical Commission render the services to the heritage sites.

A. Preservation, Maintenance and Management of Crisologo Street

What keeps the Vigan City, Crisologo Street to be specific, unique is that the local government's effort to preserve and develop is as heavy as the local community's initiative to preserve and develop. According to Roberta Rabas, a calesa driver, the local government ensures cleanliness of the place through washing down of the streets twice a week and sending sweepers in the street twice. While according to Rhodie Taan, a local, the LGU have the so-called Heritage Village Restoration Council that is in-charged in the preservation and restoration of all the old houses. As far as Crisologo Street is concerned, there is a group of security/police dressed as guardian civil during the Spanish era to further boost the place's nostalgia. In terms of maintenance, the Vigan Restoration Council has prescribed the uniformity that new structures to be built must observe the model and design code to preserve antiquity. For the locals, they cooperate with the local government unit and comply with all the rules and regulations prescribed by the LGU in order to come up with this kind of maintenance of the antiquity of the site.

Maintenance requires a plan, one that must be rigorously carried out. The board of trustees must support it-- in terms of financing to be exact. After all, preserving the historic building is as important as preserving the collections within its walls. There should be a good plan; a thorough inspection requires a complete examination of the site. Knowledge of the structure is essential for proper preventive maintenance. All maintenance inspections and repair work should be documented and be kept.

Efforts undertaken by the Government and the Locals for the preservation of Vigan did not go unnoticed. Vigan has been awarded by the UNESCO World Heritage as Best Practice and Conservation Management, beating 28 entries from 23 countries in the world The Mayor of Vigan Eva Medina said that Vigan was chosen for three reasons: its good management practice with relatively limited resources, local community participation that is integrated in the various system of heritage conservation and management of our city, and the multifaceted approach for the protection of the heritage site. "The judges did not only focus on conservation of the city but also the total development of the city which envelops tourism, water, environment protection and other aspects," Vigan celebrated World Solidarity Day as a world heritage site on September 8,

2002, its first since its declaration on December 2, 1999. Vigan was chosen as a world heritage site, according to the World Heritage Centre, because the city represents a unique fusion of Asian building design and construction with European colonial architecture and planning. The city is an exceptionally intact and well-preserved example of a European trading town in East and East Asia [10].

According to Eric Zerrudo, Culture is part of development. “Paano ka magdedevelop kung wala kang kultura, eh kaya ka nga nagdedevelop kasi may kultura ka eh”. Culture and heritage are under the umbrella of development and the only problem is that heritage has not been prioritized and focused. You do not use “integrated” to development but rather “mainstream” into development because heritage and culture is the tool to development. He also stated that, the sustainability of Vigan’s conservation management lies in its ability to engage the locals and owners of the heritage houses, teaching institutions, artists and craftsmen, and business owners to instill the value of their heritage. Throughout the decades, the local government has maintained its focal position in engaging all stakeholders and leading development through heritage conservation-based policies. This strategy may be useful for other sites as Vigan has proven that empowering the community and the local stakeholders is important on ensuring that they are committed in conserving heritage as they are its primary guardians. This gives the people a sense of ownership that makes them committed in ensuring the successful implementation of the project and makes them more aware and more involved in the task of heritage preservation.

According to Mr. Angel Bautista, preservation of heritage sites is not necessarily hindrance to development, proper blending must be observed. Preserving the heritage sites can be converted to heritage tourism sites. But control is needed for it to be not too commercialized and lose the value. In addition to this is the statement of Mr. Eric Zerrudo wherein culture and heritage is under the umbrella of development and the only problem is that heritage has not been prioritized and focused. You do not use “integrated” to development but rather “mainstream” into development because heritage and culture is the tool to development. Vigan’s Crisologo Street exemplifies that preservation lead to development; the place is scenic and nostalgic but has developed at the same time. Inside Crisologo Street is a thriving business place, a lot of souvenir shops, native restaurants and bar and grills were established and even riding a Calesa around the street is an attraction. People are motivated to maintain the place’s antiquity because it gives them livelihood and prestige. The local government unit and the local community’s effort and spirit to preserve and develop is what makes Vigan, specifically, the Crisologo Street truly one of a kind.

B. Preservation and Development

The province of Ilocos Sur is the home of two heritage sites and the vanguard of diverse cultures and traditions in the north. It is their legacy and their pride which people are protecting for the future generations. The people in Vigan know that they should deliver what they have for the future to behold, and they know that it’s not an easy task. It is their desire to strengthen

their resolve to improve their collective goal for cultural preservation and development.

Heritage conservation aims to preserve and protect significance of something which is of cultural or historical importance for the use of the present, and to be an inspiration to the community and future generations. However, the concept of preservation and development has always been perceived as something which is contradicting and paradoxical. However, as Prof. Zerrudo said, there is no such thing as “integration of culture into development” or incorporating culture into development. Culture has always been part of development and it is culture which drives things into development. Culture and heritage are under the umbrella of development and the only problem is that heritage has not been prioritized and focused. It is more appropriate to use the term “mainstream” into development. Therefore, the preservation of culture in built heritage is not a hindrance but rather a tool into development and it is something which has been proven by the city of Vigan.

It was not difficult for the city to decide on accepting the challenge to partner with the cultural agencies in implementing their projects, first because the nucleus of Vigan’s governance is heritage conservation as a tool for development and second, it is in line with the LGU’s vision and mission. Vigan has a clear goal and effective strategic plan which they follow and takes effect. Their goal of heritage preservation which would foster sustainable development materialized through a process. The process moves through four phases – awareness, appreciation, protection and utilization. The first among these steps was established through the cultural mapping activity of the community which was done prior to the declaration of Vigan. The appreciation phase is a still an on-going process through community organizing which promotes community solidarity and through capacity building which instills technical empowerment. The third in the process is protection which was realized through legislation and guidelines. The last is utilization phase which is conducted through educational programming to produce education value or project feasibility study to produce economic value. This process and all its phases are all into building preservation and a sustainable development.

The people focused on education as a way to achieve the necessary competence of their cultural workers. The National Training on Culture Based Governance has been used as an instrument to enable LGUs to share their experiences on how they utilized their culture in bringing progress in their localities. Community organizing is an activity which molds individual members into a solidarity working towards a common vision. Capacity building also, is a focused group activity that instills new skills, technology and ideas to members and improves their technical performance.

Other than overcoming perceptions about the adverse impact of culture on development – the new discourse and practice of culture and development must marry cultural promotion with economic growth and progress and sustainability without the “greed” and excesses and abuses that capitalism breeds. In the promotion for culture and development for example, a move away from “mass tourism”

to more historically, locally, culturally and environmentally informed tourism must be foreseen. To see old traditional crafts and arts develop into viable/vibrant industries that would generate employment and income and alleviate poverty is what the UNESCO hoped for. In addition, they want to see culture enhance the local communities' sense of well-being, uplift their minds and spirits, develop their sense of history and identity, through what they are and what they can do. There are a number of challenges in developing the positive linkages between culture and development; the national training is viewed as one good start to deal with those challenges and to show that local cultures, traditions and heritage are good for attaining tomorrow's progress. There must be balance between development and restoration or preservation by the integration of the old and the new. Preservation is not necessarily a hindrance, but there should be blending. Preserving the heritage sites can be converted to heritage tourism sites but control is needed for it to be not too commercialized and lose the values.

The declaration of Vigan helped its people with its preservation and maintenance; it has now become one of the most attractive tourist spots not only in the North but in the entire Philippines. With this, it helped merchants, specifically in the Crisologo Street with their sales and there also came a lot of rising establishments (i.e. hotels) which spurred employment. Preservation of Crisologo street started economic development in the area and later on, development in different areas such as education, health, peace and order, etc. The city can supply 5 liters of water for each citizen for the next 25 years for free. This goes to show that preservation is a tool rather than a hindrance to development.

A few years ago, a strong earthquake and typhoon Yolanda devastated Bohol, Leyte and other parts of Visayas, ruining many cultural monuments. In the wake of these, there exists a more pressing call to include in our executive-legislative agenda, the protection of the tangible and intangible heritage from natural and manmade calamities. It is also imperative that in any event of a disaster, everyone is ready and equipped to face restoration processes. Heritage preservation aims to preserve and protect something which is of great significance from past, for the use of the present, and to be a legacy and pride to uphold in the future. As it was mentioned above, preservation of heritage sites is a tool for development that needs to be prioritized, and that this sustainable development through preservation may be possible through the identification of resources, as Vigan has identified their resource to be their historic heritage village; and the concern, effort and participation of people involved.

IV. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND DISCUSSION

A. Summary

The overriding purpose of this thesis paper was to find out the role that the national government takes on in the preservation of the built heritage site of Crisologo Street in Vigan, Ilocos Sur. To accomplish this, it became necessary for the researchers to reach some prerequisite goals such as reviewing related literature in line with the topic, gaining an in-depth understanding of the guiding policy, RA 10066,

interviewing the research participants including key informants from NHCP, NM, NCCA, the Vigan City local government and a number of locals, participating in an actual site visit and fieldwork and attending a seminar on culture-based governance.

Apart from the site visit to Vigan in order to acquire firsthand observations of the built heritage site, the researchers also scheduled face-to-face interviews with a chosen group of people from both the national and local levels. For their interviewees on the national level, the researchers asked the interviewees their basic understanding of heritage preservation, the importance of the town of Vigan as a heritage site (including the historical, aesthetic, architectural and social significance of the town), the efforts of their respective national government sector in the preservation and maintenance of the heritage site and about their collaborations with the local government units and/or UNESCO in the preservation, maintenance and security of Vigan as well as in other heritage sites in the Philippines. Researchers also inquired the interviewee's opinion on why it is important to preserve Vigan (and consequently, other heritage sites) and if they think preservation of heritage sites should be prioritized by the national government.

For the interviewees on the local level, interviewers deemed it fit to ask them similar questions, with variations on the importance of Vigan to its people, the efforts of the local government (in cooperation with the locals) in the preservation and maintenance of the town, and how the declaration of Vigan as a UNESCO World Heritage Site help its people.

Through the thorough analysis of the proponents' chosen policy, on-site visit and observations and extensive interviews with key informants, the data we have gathered managed to address the problems we have stated and enumerated in the first chapter of this thesis paper.

B. Conclusions

Headings, or heads, are organizational devices that guide the reader through your paper. There are two types: component heads and text. The minor issues included in this paper is know how the national government manages the preservation of Crisologo Street – and consequently, Vigan in its entirety – including the flow of power regarding the facilitation of the preservation, how they carry out the preservation and what kind of power they exercise in these tasks as well as the assessment of the current conditions of Crisologo Street.

Through the researchers' data gathering, specifically in the interviews they conducted, the participants' responses expressed that the role of the national government in the preservation of Vigan's built heritage is very little in terms of actual execution. The national government, specifically the National Museum, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, is in charge of the supervision of the preservation and in aiding the local government in terms of funding projects and technical skills. The bulk of the act itself, including the maintenance, is carried out by the local government. Taking into consideration the existence of Vigan's own ordinance on the preservation of the town, Municipal Ordinance 04-2000,

also known as the “Ordinance Enacting the Preservation and Conversation Guidelines for Vigan Ancestral Houses” that was in accordance with the Municipal Ordinance No. 14 series of 1997 that was created following the declaration of Vigan as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is evident that the local government takes precautionary measures and has the capability and expertise in carrying out the tasks needed to be accomplished in built heritage preservation.

Following the minor conclusions that the researchers managed to formulate in line with the problems highlighted in the first chapter of this study, they were able to determine that the role of the national government in the preservation of the World Heritage Site of Crisologo Street in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, is highly effective in accordance with RA 10066, referencing Section 4, Section 6, Section 12, Section 13, Section 18, Section 26, Section 32 (letter J), Section 48 and Section 51.

C. Recommendations

The following recommendations made as an outgrowth of the study are offered to for further research or for the improvement of this study:

- With the differences in the current conditions of built sites declared as world heritage sites found in the Philippines, the researchers recommend a study to compare and contrast the conditions of these other built sites and the conditions of Vigan. This would aid in assessing what needs to be implemented and what needs to be improved on in other municipalities and to use Vigan as an example to emulate in these municipalities
- Since this study used RA 10066 as a main basis for its policy study, and Vigan Municipal Ordinance 04-2000 as a supplementary policy, the researchers would recommend a thorough research on other existing ordinances in the other sites, and/or existing laws in other countries that contains provisions on the preservation of built heritage sites.
- Lastly, the researchers recommend a review the culture-based governance of Vigan and how it utilized the site as key to its development.

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