



PAMBANSANG KOMISYON PARA SA KULTURA AT MGA SINING

24 April 2018

**ROWENA R. BOQUIREN, PH.D.**  
Professor  
University of the Philippines, Baguio  
rrbclimate@gmail.com

Dear **Dr. Boquiren**,

Greetings from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA)!

We acknowledge receipt of your 07 April 2018 letter, informing this Commission of the proposed construction of a multi-level parking facility within the Burnham Park area.

The National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) has recently responded to Mr. Pocholo Joselito D. Paragas, the Chief Operating Officer of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), regarding the said construction of a parking facility in between the orchidarium and the children's park, and the construction of an IP center in Ibaloi Park. The NHCP has stated that they "have always advocated the open space policy," and they "strongly recommend to the Baguio City Government to look for alternative sites for their construction projects."

Finally, the NHCP as stated in their 18 September 2017 letter addressed to Baguio City Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan, where they ask that no changes must be undertaken in the Park until plans for development are submitted to their office, they have yet to receive a reply from the Baguio City government.

Relative to this, we are one with the NCHP on their stand regarding this matter. And again, please accept this Commission's commendation for your efforts on the preservation of our cultural heritage.

Should you have any further inquiries, you may reach Ms. Mara T. Logarta of the Cultural Heritage Section at 527-2192 local 339 and/or E-mail: [heritagelaw@ncca.gov.ph](mailto:heritagelaw@ncca.gov.ph)

With assurance of our highest esteem and warmest regards!

Very truly yours,

**VIRGILIO S. ALMARIO**  
National Artist  
Chairman



# NATIONAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF THE PHILIPPINES

6 April 2018

**MR. POCHOLO JOSELITO D. PARAGAS**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority  
142 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village  
Makati City

NCCA - PFFPD  
Cultural Heritage Section  
**RECEIVED**  
By: KAM  
Date: 4/16/18

Dear Mr. Paragas,

This is with reference to your letter dated 26 March 2018, requesting the National Historical Commission of the Philippines' position on the historical significance of the Burnham Park, Baguio City, in relation with the construction of a multi-level parking facility between the orchidarium and children's park, transfer of Igorot Garden to the existing Ganza Parking, and construction of an IP center in Ibaloi Park.

Our initial research reveals that prior to American occupation of the Philippines, Burnham Park is a wide open-space which was referred as *Kafagway*. In 1904, it was developed as a park based on the design of Daniel Burnham as influenced by 'city beautiful movement.' Since its inauguration, the park, functions as breathing space and center of public congregation. It also served as a venue for local and international gathering such as the Baguio Carnival (1915), Baguio Carnival and Exposition (1923), and Pontifical mass of Pope John Paul II (1981). Under Article III Section 5 of R.A. 10066, Burnham Park is considered an Important Cultural Property given that it is more than 50 years, thus the park must be preserve and protected.

We would also like to inform you that the NHCP already wrote Mayor Mauricio Domogan on 18 September 2017 concerning the construction of a multi-storey carpark. However, the NHCP, until now, has not received any reply from the City Government. For public parks and plazas, the NHCP has always advocated the open space policy, where people can congregate and enjoy the natural setting. We strongly recommend that the Baguio City Government look for alternative sites for their construction projects.

Moreover, please be advised that we will also indorse this issue to the National Commission for Culture and the Arts- Technical Working Committee (NCCA-TWC) for further deliberation.

Thank you.

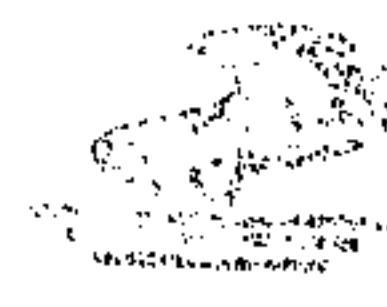
Very truly yours,

**DR. RENE R. ESCALANTE**  
Chairman

CC: **CHAIRMAN VIRGILIO S. ALMARIO**  
National Commission for Culture and the Arts

**DIRECTOR JEREMY M. BARNS**  
National Museum

**MAYOR MAURICIO G. DOMOGAN**  
Baguio City

 NATIONAL COMMISSION  
FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
Office of the Chairman

**RECEIVED**  
By: Jourdo 1079  
Date: 4/16/18





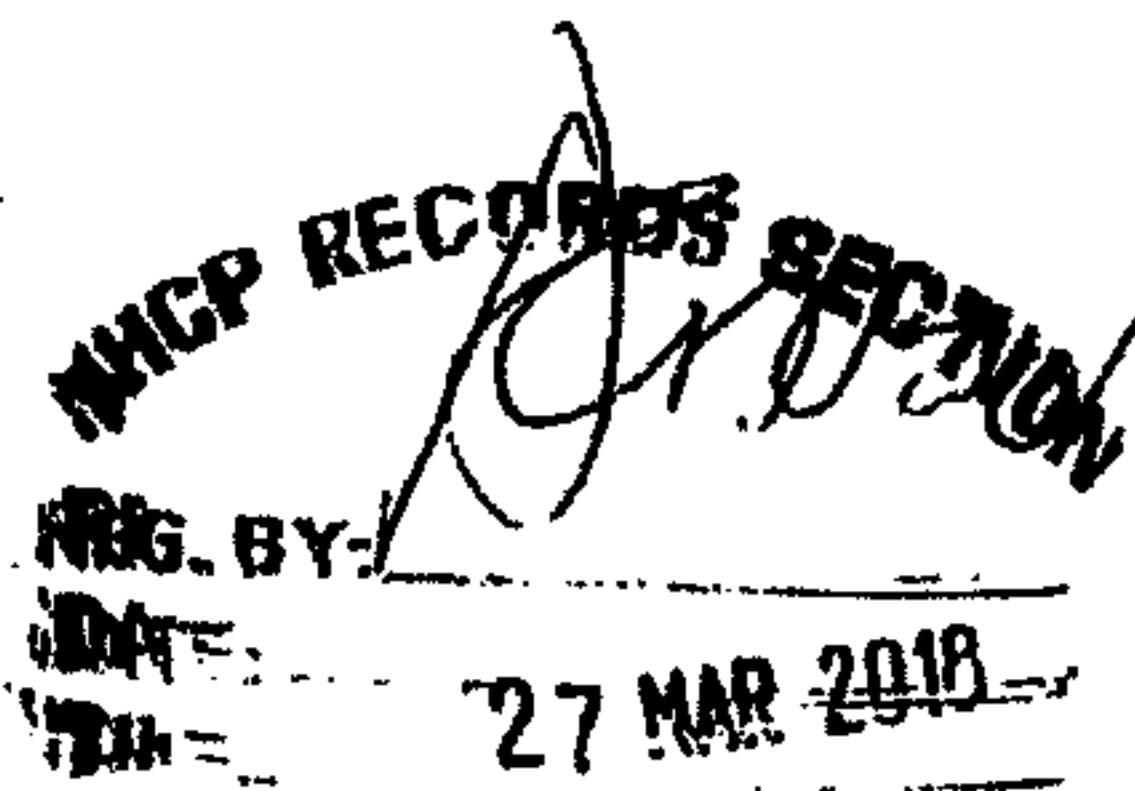
Republic of the Philippines  
Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority  
Pasay City

March 26, 2018

**Dr. RENE R. ESCALANTE**

*Chairperson*

National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP)  
T.M. Kalaw Street  
Ermita, Manila



Dear Chairperson Escalante:

We are respectfully writing in connection with the proposed construction of a Multi-Level Parking in Igorot Park, and the ongoing construction of an Indigenous Peoples (IP) Center or a three-storey building located at the Ibaloy Heritage Garden, in Burnham Park, Baguio City.

As a brief background, Proclamation No. 1762 signed by then President Ferdinand Marcos, transferred, ceded and conveyed for tourism development purposes to TIEZA, then *Philippine Tourism Authority*, the Burnham Park Reservation in Baguio City. Nonetheless, by virtue of Executive Order No. 695 signed by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the administration, maintenance, management and control as well as further developments in the Burnham Park was transferred from TIEZA to the City Government of Baguio.

With regard to the proposed construction of a multi-level parking facility located in Burnham Park at the areas of Ganza, in between the Orchidarium and the Children's Park, Mayor Mauricio Domogan just recently manifested his support for the said project. The City is likewise considering the transfer of Igorot Park/Garden to the existing Ganza Parking to give way to the said construction.


We are also raising to your attention the matter of the ongoing construction of the Department of Public Works and Highways- Baguio City District Engineering Office (DPWH-BCDEO) of an IP center in Ibaloi Park in Burnham Park. This includes the construction of a lower level area, a stage and an upper structure, which is also being contested by the Ibadoy Heritage Foundation and the Department of Tourism - Cordillera Administrative Region (DOT-CAR) Regional Director Marie Venus Tan.

In light of the foregoing, we would like to humbly request for your position in this imperative matter considering the historical value of the Burnham Park. As the cultural agency mandated to be responsible for significant immovable cultural properties that pertains to Philippine History, under Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10066, your guidance and recommendations will certainly assist us in determining our plan of action.

For clarifications, your staff may coordinate with our Atty. Michelle Rivera of our Legal Department at (+639) 17-579-8026 or through e-mail at [occoo@tieza.gov.ph](mailto:occoo@tieza.gov.ph).

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

 3/27  
**POCHOLO J.D. PARAGAS**  
*Chief Operating Officer*



## NATIONAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF THE PHILIPPINES

18 September 2017

**MAYOR MAURICIO G. DOMOGAN**

Baguio City  
mgdomogan@gmail.com  
Fax: (074) 442-7228

**Dear Mayor Domogan,**

It has come to our attention that there is a proposed construction of a multi-storey car park at the Burnham Park in Baguio City.

Please be advised that under Article III Section 5 of R.A. 10066 also known as the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009, the Burnham Park is considered an important cultural property given that it is more than fifty (50) years old, and must be preserved and protected. The park also functions as breathing space and center for public congregation since the American colonial period. Kindly submit to us the development plan of the proposed multi-storey car park for our review and comment. Please do not undertake any changes until we approve your development plan.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
**DR. RENE R. ESCALANTE**  
Chairman

CC :

**DR. ROWENA R. BOQUIREN**  
Faculty, College of Social Sciences  
University of the Philippines  
Baguio City  
rbclimate@gmail.com

**DIR. JEREMY R. BARNES**  
National Museum

**CHAIRMAN VIRGILIO ALMARIO**  
National Commission for Culture and the Arts

**GEN. MANAGER POCHOLO JOSELITO D. PARAGAS**  
Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority