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SENATE
S.B. No. 1567

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Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY OF MANAOAG
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANAOAG, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN AS A
PILGRIMAGE SITE AND TOURISM DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS
DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Manaoag Church, formally known as the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag, is acknowledged as one of the most famous and significant Marian churches in the country.

The shrine houses the 17th Century ivory image of the Blessed Virgin Mary which is venerated by millions of pilgrims across the country. Considered as the pilgrimage center of the north, the basilica is easily one of renowned attractions in Pangasinan. In 2018, it was visited by around six million devotees and tourists. Two million individuals flock to the church during the observance of the Holy Week.

The National Museum also declared the Minor Basilica as a National Cultural Treasure on December 2015 which underscores its outstanding historical, cultural, and artistic value that is important to the country.


Considering the status and importance of the church to the Filipino Catholics and the entire nation, we seek to prioritize further development of the area as a prime tourism destination and pilgrimage site. This measure directs the Department of Tourism to ensure accessibility and security of its visitors and to preserve its historical and cultural significance.

In this light, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress assembled:

1 SECTION 1. The Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag is hereby
2 declared a pilgrimage site and tourism destination. As such, its development shall be
3 prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and other concerned agencies, subject
4 to the rules and regulations governing the development of pilgrimage sites and tourist
5 destinations.

6
7 Sec. 2. The DOT, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and
8 Highways (DPWH), the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), the
9 local government of Manaoag in Pangasinan and other concerned agencies of the
10 government shall, immediately after the approval of this Act, prepare a tourism
11 development plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of
12 appropriate facilities and infrastructure which shall improve the overall features of the
13 area, thereby ensuring accessibility and the security of the pilgrims and tourists;
14 *Provided*, that the said development plan shall ensure the preservation and
15 conservation of the historical significance of the area.

16 Sec. 3. The DOT and its attached agencies shall take immediate steps in
17 implementing the tourism development for the Basilica of Our Lady of Manaoag and
18 shall incorporate the same in its overall development plans and programs for the
19 calendar year immediately succeeding the approval of this Act.

20

21 Sec. 4. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in
22 consultation with the local government unit of Manaoag, shall promulgate the
23 necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

24

25 Sec. 5. The Secretaries of the DOT and the DPWH shall include in their
26 respective Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which
27 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and shall augment such
28 allocation with the internally generated funds of the DOT.

29

30 Sec. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
31 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.