

23 MAY -9 AIO :35

SENATE

S. No. 2155

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

AN ACT

DECLARING THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS OF SAN ROQUE PARISH CHURCH, ALSO KNOWN AS THE DIOCESAN SHRINE OF NUESTRA SEÑORA DELA SOLEDAD DE PORTA VAGA, LOCATED IN THE CITY OF CAVITE, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, A TOURISM DESTINATION

EXPLANATORY NOTE

San Roque Church is known for being the shrine of Nuestra Señora Dela Soledad De Porta Vaga (Our Lady of Solitude of Porta Vaga), one of the oldest Marian paintings in the country. Relatedly, it is considered as one of the most famous Marian devotions, whose origin story remains a mystery.

Legend narrates that in one stormy night, a Spanish sentinel at the Vaga Gate of Cavite Port saw a bright light on Cañacao Bay. Fearing that it was a group of pirates, the sentry called out to demand it to stop. In a melodious voice, someone replied, "Soldier boy, why challenge me on a night so cold? Let me pass. Don't you recognize Maria?" In deep shock, the sentinel begged for forgiveness.

When the storm had subsided, fisherfolks found a framed painting of Our Lady of Porta Vaga along the beach, near the area where the Virgin appeared to the sentry the night before. Some claimed that it had washed up from a Spanish galleon that sank during the storm. The natives brought the artifact to the parish priest, who installed it temporarily in the parish church which is now known as the San Roque Church.

This measure seeks to establish the immediate environs of San Roque Parish Church, also known as the Diocesan Shrine of Nuestra Señora Dela Soledad De Porta Vaga, located in the City of Cavite, Province of Cavite, as tourism destination and pilgrimage site.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

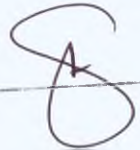
NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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SOLEDAD DE PORTA VAGA, LOCATED IN THE CITY OF CAVITE, PROVINCE
OF CAVITE, A TOURISM DESTINATION

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

1 Section 1. The immediate environs of the San Roque Parish Church, also known
2 as the Diocesan Shrine of Nuestra Señora Dela Soledad De Porta Vaga, located in the
3 City of Cavite, Province of Cavite, are hereby declared a tourism destination. Pursuant
4 thereto, its development shall be prioritized and supported by the Department of
5 Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of
6 tourism destinations.

7 Sec. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the local government
8 of the City of Cavite shall, in coordination with the DOT, Department of Public Works
9 and Highways, National Historical Commission of the Philippines and concerned
10 agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan that shall include
11 the construction, installation, and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and
12 infrastructure to improve the overall features of the immediate environs surrounding
13 the San Roque Parish Church, thereby enduring its accessibility and security of the
14 tourists: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and
15 conservation of the historical significance of the area: *Provided, further*, That the
16 implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of
17 the local government of the City of Cavite.

1 Sec. 3. The DOT shall assist the local government of the City of Cavite in the
2 implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in
3 tourism capacity building. It shall also include the immediate environs of the San
4 Roque Parish Church in its national and regional promotion programs.

5 Sec. 4. The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the
6 annual budget of the local government of the City of Cavite. The DOT may augment
7 such allocation with internally generated funds.

8 Sec. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the local
9 government of the City of Cavite, in consultation with the DOT and concerned agencies
10 of the government, promulgate the rules and regulations to implement this Act.

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

Approved,