

23 MAY 24 A11 :43

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

RECEIVED BY



SENATE
S.B. No. 2238

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

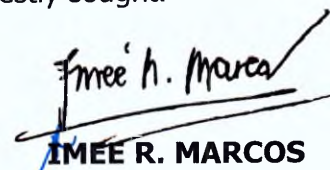
AN ACT
DECLARING THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF
OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP, POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE
BACLARAN CHURCH, LOCATED ALONG ROXAS BOULEVARD, PARANAQUE
CITY, A HERITAGE SITE AND TOURIST DESTINATION

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help also known as the Redemptorist Church and colloquially as Baclaran Church is one of the largest Marian Churches in the Philippines. Devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help is popular amongst Filipino Catholics. In Manila, Wednesdays are popularly called as "Baclaran Day", due to many devotees that come to attend the mass and pray the Novena. Since 1958, the shrine has been authorized by the Holy See to remain open 24 hours a day throughout the entire year.

The bill aims to declare the immediate environs of the National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, located along Roxas Boulevard, Paranaque City, as a heritage site and tourist destination. The church has been a pilgrim site among the millions of Marian devotees in the Philippines, and also attracts domestic and foreign tourists. It is essential that the government take the necessary steps to conserve and preserve this cultural site and secure thousands of pilgrims and tourists flocking to Baclaran Church.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


IMEE R. MARCOS

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The immediate environs of the National Shrine of Our Mother of
2 Perpetual Help, popularly known as the Baclaran Church, located along Roxas
3 Boulevard, Parañaque City, is hereby declared a heritage site and tourism destination.
4 As such, the development of the immediate environs of the Baclaran Church shall be
5 prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with the
6 National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), the local government of
7 Parañaque City and concerned agencies of the government, subject to the rules and
8 regulations governing the development of heritage sites and tourism destinations
9

10 **SEC. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the local government
11 of Parañaque City shall, in coordination with the DOT, NHCP, Department of Public
12 Works and Highways and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism
13 development plan that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of
14 such appropriate infrastructure and facilities to improve the overall features of the
15 immediate environs surrounding the Baclaran Church, thereby ensuring its accessibility
16 and the security of tourists: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the
17 preservation and conservation of the historical significance of the Baclaran Church:
18 *Provided, further*, That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be
19 included in the budget of the local government of Parañaque City.
20

21 **SEC. 3.** The DOT shall assist the local government of Parañaque City in the
22 implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in

1 tourism capacity building. It shall also include the immediate environs of the Baclaran
2 Church in all its national and regional promotion programs.

3
4 **SEC. 4.** The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the
5 annual budget of the local government of Parañaque City. The DOT may augment such
6 allocation with internally-generated funds.

7
8 **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the local
9 government of Parañaque City shall, in consultation with the DOT and concerned
10 agencies of the government, promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.

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

Approved,