

Republic of the Philippines JG 12 117:25
SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES
Pasay City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. **3370**

Introduced by HON. EDGARDO J. ANGARA

**"AN ACT
DECLARING THE BALER CHURCH, BALER MUNICIPAL PLAZA, QUEZON
PARK, AND ERMITA, LOCATED IN BALER, AURORA, AND CASIGURAN
CHURCH AND ERMITA, LOCATED IN CASIGURAN, AURORA, AS CULTURAL
HERITAGE TOURISM ZONES"**

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

SECTION 1. *Title.*- This Act shall be known as "AN ACT DECLARING BALER CHURCH, BALER MUNICIPAL PLAZA, QUEZON PARK, AND ERMITA, LOCATED IN BALER, AURORA, AND CASIGURAN CHURCH AND ERMITA, LOCATED IN CASIGURAN, AURORA, AS CULTURAL HERITAGE TOURISM ZONES".

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*- It is hereby declared the policy of the state to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable and equitable for local communities. Towards this end, the Baler Church, Baler Municipal Plaza, Quezon Park, and Ermita, located in the Baler, Aurora, and Casiguran Church and Ermita, located in Casiguran, Aurora, declared as Cultural Heritage Tourism Zones, shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourism zones.

SECTION 3. *Tourism Development Plan of the Province of Aurora.*- The Tourism Development Plan of the Province of Aurora shall be incorporated in the DOT's overall National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP) pursuant to R.A. No. 9593, otherwise known as the National Tourism Act of 2009, and be jointly implemented with the local government and other concerned agencies of the government.

The DOT, in coordination with other concerned agencies of the government, shall delineate well-defined geographic areas within the tourism zone of the province and coordinate the integrated development of these areas for the optimum use of natural assets and attractions, as well as existing infrastructure and facilities; *Provided*, That said development shall ensure the preservation and historic significance of the identified tourist attractions.

SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*- The Secretary of the Department of Tourism (DOT), in consultation with the stakeholders and other

concerned agencies shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

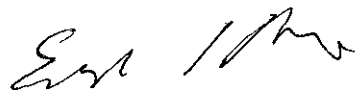
SECTION 5. *Appropriations.*- The Secretary of the DOT shall immediately include in the DOT's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and/or internally generated funds of the DOT.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.*- Any provision of this act or part hereof that may be declared unconstitutional shall not affect the effectivity of the other provisions.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.*- All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations and other issuances contrary to or inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.*- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Enr 1/12/12", is written below the word "Approved,".