

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

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SENATE

S. B. No. 2161

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

AN ACT
DECLARING THE PASKUHAN VILLAGE IN THE
CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA
AS AN IMPORTANT CULTURAL PROPERTY
OF THE PUBLIC DOMINION

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Paskuhan Village located in the City of San Fernando, Province of Pampanga was known as the only theme park in Asia where Christmas is celebrated all year round, giving its visitors insight into traditional Filipino Christmas practices. Inaugurated in December 1990, the Village also served as a venue to showcase Filipino craftsmanship, particularly locally manufactured export quality products and services.

Unfortunately, due to perceived irregularities in its sale in 2015, the Paskuhan Village is currently not operational and in a decaying state. Hence, it is imperative that the Paskuhan Village be declared an important cultural property of public dominion not only so that it can avail of the privileges accorded to national cultural treasures but also to finally lay to rest its ownership issue.

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


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III

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

1 **SECTION 1.** *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the
2 "*Paskuhan Village Act.*"
3

4 **SEC. 2.** *Declaration of Principle.* - It is the policy of the State to
5 foster the preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of a Filipino
6 national culture based on the principle of unity in diversity in a climate
7 of free artistic and intellectual expressions. Towards this end, the State
8 shall protect its cultural treasures and regulate its disposition.
9

10 **SEC. 3.** *Declaration of Paskuhan Village as an Important Cultural*
11 *Property of the Public Dominion.* - The Paskuhan Village in the City of
12 San Fernando, Province of Pampanga, including the land on which it is
13 situated, is hereby declared as an important cultural property of the
14 public dominion.
15

16 **SEC. 4.** *Operation and Management of the Paskuhan Village.* -
17 The operation and management of the Paskuhan Village is hereby

1 devolved to the local government of the City of San Fernando,
2 Pampanga. As such, the proper local government unit shall be
3 responsible for the improvement, rehabilitation, and maintenance of the
4 Paskuhan Village.

5
6 **SEC. 5.** *Assistance of National Government Agencies.* – The
7 Department of Tourism (DOT) through its Tourism Infrastructure
8 Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and the National Commission for
9 Culture and the Arts (NCCA) are hereby directed to provide assistance
10 to the local government of the City of San Fernando, Pampanga for
11 purposes of the improvement, rehabilitation, and maintenance of the
12 Paskuhan Village.

13
14 **SEC. 6.** *Paskuhan Village Trust Fund.* – All revenues that will be
15 earned by the local government of the City of San Fernando, Pampanga
16 in the operation of the Paskuhan Village shall be considered as trust fund
17 which shall be used exclusively for the operation, improvement,
18 maintenance, and rehabilitation of the Paskuhan Village, including the
19 payment of reasonable honoraria for public officers from the local
20 government unit of the City of San Fernando, Pampanga, DOT, TIEZA,
21 or NCCA who may be tasked to render assistance in matters of
22 improvement, rehabilitation, and maintenance of the Paskuhan Village.

23
24 **SEC. 7.** *Repealing Clause.* – This law repeals Section 64 of Sub-
25 Chapter IV-B, Chapter IV of Republic Act No. 9593 entitled An Act
26 Declaring A National Policy for Tourism As An Engine of Investment,
27 Employment, Growth and National Development and Strengthening the
28 Department of Tourism and Its Attached Agencies to Effectively and
29 Efficiently Implement That Policy and Appropriating Funds Therefor.
30 All other laws, presidential proclamations, executive orders, rules and
31 regulations, and other issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this
32 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

33
34 **SEC. 8.** *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is
35 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected
36 thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

37

1 **SEC. 9. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
2 days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of
3 national circulation.

Approved,