

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


SENATE
S. No. 694



Senate
Office of the Secretary

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr. 19 JUL 22 P 3 :57

AN ACT

RECEIVED BY: 

DECLARING THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP OR THE REDEMPTORIST CHURCH (BACLARAN CHURCH) LOCATED ALONG ROXAS BOULEVARD, PARAÑAQUE CITY A HERITAGE SITE AND TOURIST DESTINATION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Baclaran Church or formally known as the National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help is one of the biggest and most significant Marian churches in the Philippines. Every Wednesday, also known as "Baclaran Day" to people who live in the area, thousands of devotees flock to the church in the name of tradition to attend mass and pray the Novena of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, honoring the first time the Novena was prayed there on June 23, 1948. The Shrine also celebrates the annual feast day of the Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help every 27th of June, consequently all roads that lead to the church are packed with even more people on pilgrimage.

The Shrine has been authorized by the Holy See to remain open twenty-four (24) hours a day, since the Feast of Immaculate Conception in 1958. The Shrine was blessed by Pope John Paul II himself during his first apostolic visit to Metro Manila back in 1981.

The present Romanesque structure we see there today is the third to be built on the same site. The second church was burned to the ground during the Japanese occupation, it took six (6) years to build what we see there today through the generous donations of the Shrine's devotees and pilgrims.

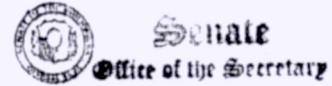
The Shrine has been a significant part of our country's socio-cultural landscape, particularly in Metro Manila. It has been a historical place of pilgrimage that has persevered through many challenges. It is a place of worship for millions of Marian devotees in the Philippines, and even for pilgrims and tourists from all across the world honoring their faith.

It is high time the State recognizes the significance of this institution. It is time to take the necessary steps to conserve and preserve this vital cultural site, to ensure the protection and security of the thousands of pilgrims and tourists who flock to Baclaran Church regularly.

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


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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

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

9 Sec. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in
10 coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and other
11 concerned agencies of the government shall prepare a tourism development plan
12 involving the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities
13 and infrastructure that shall improve the overall features of the area surrounding the
14 Redemptorist Church, thereby ensuring its accessibility and the security of tourists;
15 Provided, that said development plan shall ensure its preservation and conservation
16 of the historical significance of the area.

17 Sec. 3. The DOT and its concerned attached agencies shall take immediate
18 steps to implement the appropriate tourism development plan for the immediate

1 Sec. 3. The DOT and its concerned attached agencies shall take immediate
2 steps to implement the appropriate tourism development plan for the immediate
3 environs of the National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help or Redemptorist
4 Church (Baclaran Church) and its immediate environs and shall incorporate the same
5 in the National Tourism Development Plan.

6 Sec. 4. The Secretary of the DOT, the Chairperson of the NHCP and the Chief
7 Operating officer of the TIEZA shall include in their respective programs the
8 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual
9 General Appropriations Act and internally generated funds of the DOT.

10 Sec. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of his Act, the DOT, in
11 consultation with the local government unit of Parañaque City, shall promulgate rules
12 and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

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

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17 *Approved,*