

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1604



Introduced by *HON. GENEROSO DC. TULAGAN*

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The abode where the image of Señor Divino Tesoro is housed started as a chapel to accommodate the faithful of Calasiao, Pangasinan but was too small for the thousands of devotees and pilgrims who pay homage to Señor Divino Tesoro. If the fame of devotion to Señor Divino Tesoro is to be measured by the number of people who visit a church, then the church of Señor Divino Tesoro is the most famous in the Third District of Pangasinan. For indeed, the influx of people throughout the whole year is unstoppable when all roads seem to lead to Calasiao, Pangasinan being the fiesta of the town in commemoration of their patron saint, Señor Divino Tesoro.

There is an explanation to this phenomenon, the image of Señor Divino Tesoro was originally housed in Saint Peter and Paul Parish Church of the town of Calasiao. During one fiesta month, the icon of Señor Divino Tesoro is brought out and placed at the municipal hall. It is displayed in such a manner that it can be viewed publicly by devotees or non-devotees alike. When it was time to return the image to the church, the icon became surprisingly heavy that not even 10 men can carry it. There were several attempts to return the image to the church but all attempts failed, thus a chapel was built intended to house the icon at the same place where it was displayed. The chapel became a perfect sanctuary for those wanting spiritual renewal and blessings. Señor Divino Tesoro is famous for the intercession for the sick, the poor, the needy and the troubled. Numerous miracles took place and these were all attributed through the intercession of Señor Divino Tesoro.

The exodus of people from all walks of life will aptly make the Calasiao, Pangasinan- the human capital of the Third District of Pangasinan.

Considering the wide popularity of Señor Divino Tesoro, it is appropriate that the chapel including the vicinity where the icon of the Señor Divino Tesoro is housed to be declared as a tourist zone by the Department of Tourism and further, to construct thereat tourist facilities for the benefit of pilgrims and local tourists in the area.

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


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AN ACT
DECLARING THE CHURCH AND THE VICINITY WHERE THE ICON OF
SEÑOR DIVINO TESORO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CALASIAO,
PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN AS A TOURIST ZONE AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

Section 1. The church of Señor Divino Tesoro in the Municipality of Calasiao, Province of Pangasinan are hereby declared as special tourist zone and shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism and Department of Public Works and Highways subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourist spots and zones.

Section 2. The Department of Tourism and the Department of Public Works and Highways in consultation with the church leaders and local officials of Calasiao, Pangasinan shall within one (1) month from approval of this act, prepare the development plan, construction and installation of such other facilities and infrastructure as shall enhance tourism in the area.

Section 3. Upon approval of the development plan, the Department of Tourism and the Department of Public Works and Highways shall implement the necessary construction of tourism facilities and shall likewise implement the construction of surrounding access roads. The Department of Tourism and Department of Public Works and Highways shall incorporate the development programs in consultation with the church leaders and local officials of Calasiao, Pangasinan.

Section 4. The Department of Tourism shall promulgate the necessary regulations of this Act.

Approved,