

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7553



Introduced by Representative **ANTONIO "TONYPET" T. ALBANO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Saint Matthias Parish Church, Tumauni, Province of Isabela as a tourist destination.

The construction of the Saint Matthias Parish Church began in 1783 and was completed in 1805. Attached to the church's façade is a wedding cake-like cylindrical bell tower and is one of the remaining cylindrical bell towers in the Philippines. The church is famous for its baroque-style architecture. It has clay for its wall finishing and interior ornamentation. The façade of the church is in concentric circles and has details like flowers, foliage, surfaces, cherubs and saints. The church was damaged during the Second World War in 1945 and was renovated in 1950. In July 31, 2001, it was declared by the National Museum as a National Cultural Treasure.

In order to conserve and preserve the architectural and cultural significance of the church, the government, in coordination with the DOT should provide assistance to develop it as tourist destination.

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

ANTONIO "TONYPET" T. ALBANO

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE SAINT MATTHIAS PARISH CHURCH, TUMAUINI, PROVINCE
OF ISABELA A TOURIST DESTINATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **Section 1.** The Saint Matthias Parish Church in Tumauni, Province of Isabela
2 and its environs is hereby declared a tourist destination. As such its development shall
3 be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with the Local
4 Government of Tumauni, Isabela and other concerned agencies and shall be subject to
5 the rules and regulations governing the development of a tourist destination.
6

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

16 **Section 3.** The DOT and its concerned attached agencies shall take immediate
17 steps to implement the appropriate tourism development plan for the Saint Matthias
18 Parish Church and its immediate environs and shall incorporate the same in the
19 National Tourism Development Plan.
20

21 **Section 4.** The Secretary of DOT and the DPWH shall include in the Departments'
22 program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the
23 annual General Appropriation Act and internally generated funds of the DOT.

1 **Section 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in
2 consultation with the local government unit of Tumauni, Isabela shall promulgate the
3 rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.
4

5 **Section 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the
6 Official Gazette or in two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,