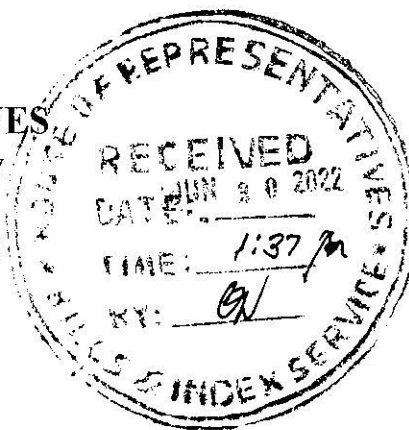


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 142



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE EDWIN L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help is one of the largest Marian Churches in the Philippines. Thousands of devotees flood the church every Wednesday to attend Mass and pray the Novena of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. This tradition of Wednesday worship by the devotees of the Mother of Perpetual Help made popular the term "Baclaran Day" in Metro Manila. During this Baclaran Day, the roads leading to the church are congested by thousands of devotees and pilgrims. The Shrine celebrates the annual feast day of the Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help every 27th of June, drawing more pilgrims and devotees to throng to the church.

Since the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1958, the shrine has been authorized by the Holy See to remain open 24 hours a day throughout the entire year. The shrine itself was blessed by Pope John Paul II during his first Apostolic Visit to Metro Manila in 1981.

The present modern Romanesque church is the third to be built on the same site since the second church was burned during the Japanese occupation. It took six (6) years to build the present church from the donations of the devotees and pilgrims.

The National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help of popularly known as Baclaran Church has been part of the sociocultural landscape of the country, particularly in Metro Manila and has been a pilgrim site among the millions of Marian devotees in the Philippines, and also attracts domestic and foreign tourists.

Henceforth, it is essential that government take the necessary steps or programs to conserve and preserve this important cultural site, and protect and secure the thousands of pilgrims and tourists flocking to Baclaran Church.

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



EDWIN L. OLIVAREZ

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House Bill No. **142**

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS OF THE NATIONAL
SHRINE OF OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL POPULARLY KNOWN
AS THE BACLARAN CHURCH, LOCATED ALONG ROXAS
BOULEVARD, PARANAQUE CITY, A HERITAGE SITE AND
TOURIST DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The immediate environs of the National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, popularly known as the Baclaran Church, located along Roxas Boulevard, Parañaque City, is hereby declared a heritage site and tourist destination. As such, the development of the immediate environs of the Baclaran Church shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), the local government of Parañaque and other concerned agencies, subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of heritage sites and tourist destinations.

Sec. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and other concerned agencies of the government, shall prepare a tourism development plan including the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall improve the overall features of the environs surrounding the Baclaran Church the security of tourists: Provided, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the historical significance of the area.

Sec. 4. The Secretary of the DOT and the Chairperson of the NHCP shall include in their respective programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectively of this Act, the DOT, in consultation with the city government of Parañaque, shall promulgate the necessary and regulations 12 for the proper implementation of this Act.

Sec. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,