

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City
19TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3750**



Introduced by: **REP. JOEL R. CHUA**

Explanatory Note

At the heart of the City of Manila lies the vibrant area of Quiapo. For many reasons, Quiapo has become a household name, a landmark, and a symbol for many Filipinos. The name “Quiapo” was derived from the word *kiyapo*. It is a species of floating water lily with thick, light-green leaves, similar to a tiny, open cabbage. At around the early 1600s, the galleon trade increased the population of Chinese migrants who exchanged their silk and other products near Quiapo. Towards the next century, Quiapo transformed into a wealthy suburb. It boasted stately homes, the most beautiful street in Manila (R.Hidalgo), the loveliest park in Manila (Plaza del Carmen), and the most spacious public market in Manila (Mercado de la Quinta) (Andrade, nd.)

Within this area, two historical churches may be found: the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, popularly known as Quiapo Church, and the Minor Basilica of San Sebastian.

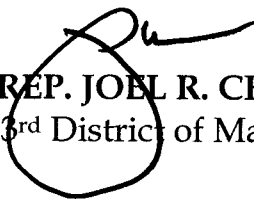
The Quiapo Church was founded at around 1578, and it serves as the home of the miraculous Black Nazarene Statue for whom thousands of devotees would gather every Friday, and especially on the 9th of January. On December 11, 1987, His Holiness, Pope John Paul II granted the recognition of Quiapo Church as the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene because of its role in strengthening a deep popular devotion to Jesus Christ and its cultural contribution to the religiosity of the Filipino people (Cacho, 2009).

The Minor Basilica of San Sebastian is just as significant, and part of the Heritage Zone. On 1621, four San Sebastian masonry churches stood at Plaza del Carmen before it was destroyed by earthquakes and fires. It was rebuilt as the current architectural marvel as it is the only all-steel church in the country. The Minor Basilica opened on May 5, 1621, to house the statue of Virgen del Carmen.

The City of Manila needs a Heritage Zone not just to create jobs, but to help uplift the reputation of the city in the Philippines and in the world.

Currently, there are two Heritage Zones in the City of Manila. However, this is not enough to support the vibrant Capital. Through this Bill, the proposed Quiapo Pilgrimage and Living Heritage Zone within these areas will receive the attention it deserves. Ultimately, there is a need to declare the immediate environs of Quiapo Church, Plaza Miranda, San Sebastian Church, and Plaza del Carmen as a National Heritage Zone for the restoration of their infrastructures, preservation of its culture, and the rehabilitation of the community as a whole.

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



REP. JOEL R. CHUA
3rd District of Manila

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AN ACT DECLARING THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS OF QUIAPO CHURCH, PLAZA MIRANDA, SAN SEBASTIAN CHURCH, AND PLAZA DEL CARMEN AS A NATIONAL HERITAGE ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR ITS RESTORATION REHABILITATION, CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER PURPOSES

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as "The Quiapo Heritage Zone Act".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the state to protect, preserve, and conserve the nation's cultural heritage, its properties and history, and the traditions of local communities.

SECTION 3. Quiapo National Heritage Zone. - The Quiapo Heritage Zone shall be bounded on the west by Evangelista Street, wrapping around the properties surrounding Quiapo Church and Plaza Miranda; on the north by rear property lines of buildings facing Escaldo Street and F. R. Hidalgo Street, continuing northwest along the rear property lines of buildings facing San Sebastian Street and northeast along Recto Avenue; on the east bounded by the side property lines of the San Sebastian College complex and Plaza del Carmen, and on the south, following the south bank of the Estero de Quiapo and wrapping around the rear property lines of buildings facing Hidalgo Street and A. Bautista Street.

The Quiapo Heritage Zone shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and other concerned departments and units and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of national heritage zones.

SECTION 4. Development Plan of the Quiapo Heritage Zone. - The Department of Tourism, in partnership with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), other government agencies concerned, and the City Government of Manila, shall within one year after the approval of this Act, prepare the development plan involving the restoration, rehabilitation conservation and/or maintenance of such appropriate facilities which shall enhance the area: Provided, That said development shall ensure the preservation of the cultural heritage and the historical significance of the identified area.

SECTION 5. Coordination with National Agencies and Local Government Units (LGUs). - The DOT, together with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), in coordination with the City Government of Manila, shall set forth and implement the necessary construction and/or improvement of roads and other infrastructure upon the promulgation of this Act and incorporate it in its infrastructure program.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Secretary of the DOT and the Secretary of the DPWH, in consultation with the stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. Appropriations. -The Secretary of the DOT and the Secretary of the DPWH shall immediately include in their respective programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and/or charged against the internally generated funds of the DOT.

SECTION 8. Repealing clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of implementation, rules and regulations or part or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, superseded, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 9. Separability clause. - Should any portion or provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a competent court, the other portions, or provisions hereof will remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved.