

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5163**



**Introduced by HONORABLE RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III
and HONORABLE BRYAN B. REVILLA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Saint Mary Magdalene Parish Church or also known as Kawit Church is the parish church of the Municipality of Kawit, Province of Cavite. The first wooden church was constructed in 1638 through the aid of six Filipino families from the towns of Maragondon and Silang, Cavite.¹

During the Spanish era, the town of Kawit was slowly turned into a pleasure area by the visiting Spanish marines. To solve and renew its bad reputation, Manila Archbishop Miguel Garcia Serrano ordered the dedication of the Kawit Church to St. Mary Magdalene, who successively became the patroness of the town. In 1869, the president of the First Philippine Republic, General Emilio Aguinaldo was baptized in this church. His birth certificate is kept inside a glass cabinet and on the left side of the altar, where the miraculous statue of St. Mary Magdalene is enshrined.

During the Philippine-American War in 1898, the St. Mary Magdalene Church was almost destroyed due to the bombardment of the Americans as Filipino revolutionaries were hiding in the church for protection. Scars from the suffered damages on the building can still be traced on the church's facade.

As time itself has unequivocally witnessed, it is only befitting for the Saint Mary Magdalene Parish Church to be included in the annals of history and be recognized as a tourism destination and pilgrimage site. This bill seeks to establish the immediate environs of Saint Mary Magdalene Parish Church located in the Municipality of Kawit, Province of Cavite as a tourism destination and pilgrimage site.

¹ National Registry of Historic Sites & Structures in the Philippines. Simbahan ng Kawit. Information retrieved from <http://nhcphistoricsites.blogspot.com/2011/10/simbahan-ng-kawit.html>

It shall mandate the Department of Tourism (DOT) and other government agencies to develop the vicinity of the area in accordance with the rules and regulations governing the development of tourism sites. Moreover, the DOT shall, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), and other concerned government agencies shall prepare a tourism development plan for the construction, installation and maintenance of the facilities and infrastructure surrounding Saint Magdalene Parish Church.

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



RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III



BRYAN B. REVILLA

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HOUSE BILL NO. 5163

Introduced by **HONORABLE RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III**
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AN ACT
DECLARING THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS OF SAINT MARY MAGDALENE
PARISH CHURCH LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KAWIT, PROVINCE OF
CAVITE, A TOURISM DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The immediate environs of Saint Mary Magdalene Parish Church located in the Municipality of Kawit, Province of Cavite, is hereby declared a tourism destination. As such, the development of the immediate environs of Saint Mary Magdalene Parish Church shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and other concerned agencies, subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourism destinations.

SECTION 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT shall, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), and other concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation, and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure to improve the overall features of the immediate environs surrounding Saint Mary Magdalene Parish Church, thereby enduring its accessibility and the security of the tourists: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the historical significance of the area.

SECTION 3. The DOT and its concerned attached agencies shall take immediate steps to implement the tourism development plan for the immediate environs of Saint Mary Magdalene Parish Church, and shall incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the calendar year immediately succeeding the approval of this Act.

SECTION 4. The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act, and shall augment such allocation with internally generated funds of the Department.

SECTION 5. Within sixty (60) days from the passage of this Act, the DOT shall, in consultation with the municipal government of Kawit, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

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

Approved,