

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5165**



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure aims to establish the immediate environs of the San Roque Parish Church or the Diocesan Shrine of Nuestra Señora dela Soledad de Porta Vaga located in the City of Cavite, Province of Cavite as a tourism destination and pilgrimage site. 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 the San Roque Parish Church.

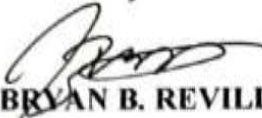
The San Roque Parish Church is home to the famous icon of the Nuestra Señora dela Soledad de Porta Vaga, otherwise known as the undisputed “Queen of Cavite”. It is a Marian title associated with a religion icon which depicts the Virgin Mary as Our Lady of Solitude, the Patroness of the Province of Cavite, permanently enshrined in its own Diocesan Shrine in San Roque Parish Church, Cavite City.

The icon of the Soledad is that of the Blessed Virgin Mary garbed in black and white and kneeling as she deeply contemplates the instruments of the Passion of Jesus on the night of Good Friday. It is considered to be an invaluable treasure inherited by the Caviteños, and is one of the oldest extant dated Marian painting in the country. The Virgin dela Soledad is also known as the “Virgin of a Thousand Miracles,” because of the many miracles granted to the faithful devotees.

For many Caviteños, the Nuestra Señora dela Soledad de Porta Vaga has always formed part of our dire manifestation to express our staunch and adamant religious faith. It is, therefore, only apt to safeguard our tangible heritage.

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. 5165

Introduced by **HONORABLE RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III**
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AN ACT
DECLARING THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS OF SAN ROQUE PARISH CHURCH
(DIOCESAN SHRINE OF NUESTRA SEÑORA DELA SOLEDAD DE PORTA VAGA)
LOCATED IN THE CITY OF CAVITE, 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 San Roque Parish Church (Diocesan Shrine of Nuestra Señora Dela Soledad De Porta Vaga) located in the City of Cavite, Province of Cavite, is hereby declared a tourism destination. As such, the development of the immediate environs of San Roque Parish Church (Diocesan Shrine of Nuestra Señora Dela Soledad De Porta Vaga) 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 San Roque Parish Church (Diocesan Shrine of Nuestra Señora Dela Soledad De Porta Vaga), 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 San Roque Parish

Church (Diocesan Shrine of Nuestra Señora Dela Soledad De Porta Vaga), 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 city government of Cavite, 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,