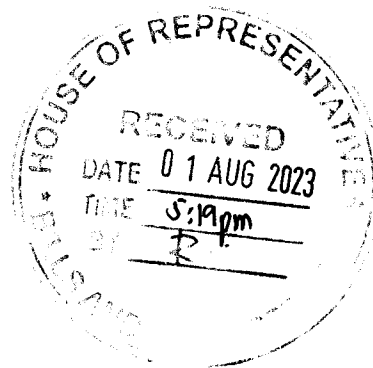




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH (19th) CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 8696

Introduced by: Hon. Ma. Victoria Co - Pilar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Melchora Aquino, celebrated as the “Ina ng Katipunan” from her dedicated service to the wounded Filipino soldiers and revolutionaries during the Spanish colonial occupation, had her roots in the heart of Banlat, District 6, Quezon City. She was greatly revered for her courage and valuable contributions in the Philippine revolution which led us to liberation of our country.

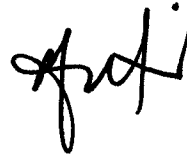
The heroine was widely called as Tandang Sora, a moniker she received from Filipino soldiers during her time as a Filipina revolutionary. Tandang means “old,” since Aquino was 84 years old when the revolution started. She provided shelter, aid, encouragement, and other resources to our soldiers and revolutionaries, even offering her own home as refuge where soldiers found comfort, nourishment, solace, and protection.

To commemorate her unwavering service towards her country and fellowmen, the Tandang Sora National Shrine was built in 2008 under the leadership of then Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. and through the craftsmanship of sculptor Toym Imao. Located in Banlat Road, Brgy. Tandang Sora, Quezon City, the shrine houses a museum, pavilion, and a stage for historical events and gatherings. Tandang Sora died in 1919 and was interred at the Mausoleum of the Veterans of the Philippine Revolution at the La Loma North Cemetery. Her remains were re-interred at the Tandang Sora Shrine on her 200th birth anniversary on January 6, 2012. The Shrine

gained its national status on March 2, 2012, through a resolution by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines.

Melchora Aquino's contributions to the Philippine Revolution represent the vital role played by women in the struggle for independence. By declaring the Tandang Sora National Shrine a heritage site, we honor not only her memory but also recognize the invaluable contributions of women throughout Philippine history.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'afu' or similar, with a small dot above the final 'i'.



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**AN ACT DECLARING THE TANDANG SORA NATIONAL SHRINE IN THE
6TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF QUEZON CITY AS A CULTURAL HERITAGE
SITE, PROVIDING FOR ITS PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title*** – This act shall be known as “The Tandang Sora National Shrine
2 Heritage Site Act”

3
4 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy*** – It is a policy of the State to conserve, promote, and
5 popularize the nation’s historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic
6 creations. Moreover, the Constitution declares that all of the country’s artistic and historic
7 wealth constitutes the cultural treasure of the nation and shall then be under the protection of
8 the State which may regulate its disposition.

9
10 Towards this end, it shall be the duty of the State to protect, preserve, and promote the cultural
11 and historical heritage of the Tandang Sora National Shrine.

12
13 **SECTION 3. *Tandang Sora National Shrine as a Cultural Heritage Site.*** – The Tandang
14 Sora National Shrine located in Banlat Road, Barangay Tandang Sora, District 6, Quezon City
15 is hereby declared as a cultural heritage site. As such, its development shall be prioritized by
16 the Department of Tourism (DOT), National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA),
17 the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), the Tourism Infrastructure and

Enterprise Zone Authority, and other concerned agencies, subject to the rules and regulations governing the preservation and development of national heritage sites.

SECTION 4 *Tourism Development Plan* – 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 involving the construction, installation, and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall improve the overall features and environs of the area, thereby ensuring the accessibility and security of tourists; *Provided*, that said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the historical significance of the area. *Provided further*, that the DOT and its concerned attached agencies shall take necessary steps to implement the tourism development plan appropriately aligned and incorporated in the National Tourism Development Plan.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations*. – The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the necessary funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in consultation with the local government unit of Quezon City, shall promulgate rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, memoranda, rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Acts are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause*. – If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts of the provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,