



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City



**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 9005**

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Introduced by:  
**REP. HARRIS CHRISTOPHER M. ONGCHUAN**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The State guarantees the importance of culture to foster patriotism and nationalism. With the Philippines being a predominantly Catholic country, it is not surprising that a lot of cultural landmarks are of Catholic origins.

The Nuestra Señora de Salvación Church, located in Barangay Napotiocan, Municipality of Laoang, is a Roman Catholic church established in the year 2000. It was named after Our Lady of Salvation, which is a Marian title venerated by the Philippines after the protection She gave to the residents of Tiwi, Albay from coastal raiders. This act seeks to develop this Church into a cultural and tourism destination.

In coordination with the Department of Tourism and other concerned agencies, the municipal government of Laoang will be given one year after the approval of this act to prepare a tourism development plan. This plan will ensure that the area will have suitable infrastructure in place for visitors and will ensure the preservation of the site's historical significance.

The successful enactment of this measure would provide a big cultural and historical significance to the people of Northern Samar.

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

  
**REP. HARRIS CHRISTOPHER M. ONGCHUAN**



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**AN ACT DECLARING THE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE SALVACION CHURCH IN  
BARANGAY NAPOTIOCAN, MUNICIPALITY OF LAOANG, PROVINCE OF  
NORTHERN SAMAR A PILGRIMAGE SITE AND A TOURIST DESTINATION,  
PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREOF**

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

**SECTION 1.** The Our Lady of Salvation Church located in Barangay Napotiocan, Municipality of Laoang, Province of Northern Samar, is hereby declared a tourism destination. Pursuant thereto, its development shall be prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourism destinations.

**SEC. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the Municipal government of Laoang shall, in coordination with the DOT and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate infrastructure and facilities to enhance tourism in the area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation of the historical significance of the area: *Provided, further*, That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the Municipal government of Laoang.

**SEC. 3.** The DOT shall assist the Municipal government of Laoang in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include the Our Lady of Salvation Church in its national and regional promotion programs.

**SEC. 4.** The Secretary of Tourism shall include in the DOT's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and from internally generated funds of the DOT.

**SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Tourism, in consultation with the Municipality of Laoang, and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

**SEC. 6.** All laws, regulations, proclamations, executive orders, or part thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended accordingly.

**SEC. 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,