



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 2016

Introduced by MA. RENE ANN LOURDES G. MATIBAG

AN ACT DECLARING THE MIRACULOUS IMAGE OF JESUS, LOCALLY KNOWN AS “LOLO UWENG”, LOCATED INSIDE THE SANTO SEPULCRO PARISH IN SAN PEDRO CITY, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, A NATIONAL CULTURAL TREASURE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

During the era of Spanish colonization, the Spaniards build churches in town centers called *población*, which operated both as the seat of local political and religious power. However, aside from *población*, natives build improvised places of worship outside of the town center. Which they called the *visita*.

In Barangay Landayan, City of San Pedro, Laguna, one such *visita* exists, dating back to the 1700s. This *visita* became the subject of popular veneration. It was fondly given the name “Lolo Uweng” derived from the name Emmanuel.

During the American Occupation, the *visita* remained intact and became a hiding place for women from the Japanese soldiers. After the Liberation, the cogon church was eventually replaced by a concrete structure, and on September 29, 1969, Fr. Pedro N. Bantigue erected the parish, first dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel, but later became Santo Sepulcro due to the popularity of the veneration of Lolo Uweng.

Santo Sepulcros is a very important part of the history and culture of the City of San Pedro, and occupies an important place in the spiritual lives of many Filipinos in and out of the

city. As such, it deserves attention from the State to be recognized as a National Cultural Treasure, because its preservation means so much for the people of the City of San Pedro.

This bill seeks to ensure the preservation of Santo Sepulcro by declaring it a National Cultural Treasure and providing funds towards such preservation and/or reconstruction efforts.



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

SECTION 1. The Miraculous Image of Jesus, locally known as “Lolo Uweng,” located inside the Santo Sepulcro Parish Church in San Pedro City, Province of Laguna, is hereby declared a National Cultural Treasure.

SECTION 2. The development of the area shall be prioritized by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), in coordination with the Department of Tourism (DOT), City Government of San Pedro, and other concerned government agencies.

SECTION 3. The NCCA shall include in its program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. Within sixty days from the effectivity of this Act, the NCCA shall, in coordination with DOT and the City Government of San Pedro, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,