



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2090**



Introduced by Representative Antonio “Tonypet” T. Albano

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Saint Matthias Parish Church in the Municipality of Tumauini, Province of Isabela as a tourism destination, and promote its sustainable development while preserving its historical and cultural integrity.

The construction of the Saint Matthias Parish Church began in 1783 and was completed in 1805. The Church is admired for its district baroque-style architecture and its rare cylindrical bell tower, often compared to a wedding cake due to its layered, circular form. Its façade features ornate brickwork and clay embellishments, including floral and cherubic motifs. In July 31, 2001, it was declared by the National Museum as a National Cultural Treasure.

In order to conserve and preserve the architectural and cultural significance of the church, the government, in coordination with the DOT should provide assistance to develop it as tourist destination.

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


ANTONIO “TONYPET” T. ALBANO



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AN ACT
DECLARING THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS OF THE SAINT MATTHIAS
PARISH CHURCH LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUMAUINI,
PROVINCE OF ISABELA, AS A TOURISM DESTINATION

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The immediate environs of the Saint Matthias
2 Parish Church located in the Municipality of Tumauni, Province of
3 Isabela, are hereby declared as a tourism destination. Pursuant
4 thereto, the development of the immediate environs of the Saint
5 Matthias Parish Church shall be prioritized and supported by the
6 Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations
7 governing the development of tourism destinations.

8 **SEC. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the
9 municipal government of Tumauni shall, in coordination with the
10 DOT, Department of Public Works and Highways, National Historical
11 Commission of the Philippines and concerned agencies of the
12 government, prepare a tourism development plan that shall include

1 the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate
2 infrastructure and facilities to improve the overall features of the
3 immediate environs surrounding the Saint Matthias Parish Church,
4 thereby ensuring its accessibility and the security of tourists:
5 *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation
6 and conservation of the historical significance of the church:
7 *Provided, further*, That the implementation of the tourism
8 development plan shall be included in the budget of the municipal
9 government of Tumauni.

10 **SEC. 3.** The DOT shall assist the municipal government of
11 Tumauni in the implementation of the tourism development plan by
12 providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall
13 also include the immediate environs of the Saint Matthias Parish
14 Church in its national and regional promotion programs.

15 **SEC. 4.** The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be
16 included in the annual budget of the municipal government of
17 Tumauni. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally-
18 generated funds.

19 **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act,
20 the municipal government of Tumauni shall, in consultation with the
21 DOT and concerned agencies of the government, promulgate rules
22 and regulations to implement this Act.

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

Approved,