

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



Begun and held in Metro Manila on _____, the _____ day of _____, two
thousand and twenty-five

HOUSE BILL NO. 3240

Introduced by Representative Agatha Paula "Agay" A. Cruz

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Ancestral houses are a few of the tangible reminders of the Philippine's colorful history. Maintained for generations, these structures hold memories of days long gone. One of these ancestral houses is Bahay na Tisa.

Nestled in the Municipality of Balagtas, Bulacan, Bahay na Tisa is a testament to the rich history and culture of Bulacan.

Bahay na Tisa was built in the 1800s and is one of the oldest houses in the province. Beyond its exquisite design reminiscent of the olden days, Bahay na Tisa also has many stories to tell. It was originally owned by Captain Valentin Constantino, a former mayor of the province and one of the richest persons in the area at that time. It also served as a temporary home to our National Hero Dr. Jose Rizal during his visit to Malolos.¹ According to the stories, Japanese soldiers built a prison in the basement of the house during the Japanese occupation. After the war, it was rented out as a school.²

At present, Bahay na Tisa still stands proud along MacArthur Highway in front of Balagtas Municipal Hall. It remains well-appreciated by locals and visitors alike even after hundreds of years since it was built.

As such, this bill aims to declare Bahay na Tisa as a historical and tourism site to preserve its existence as a vestige of the rich history and culture of Balagtas, Bulacan. Through this bill, its significance will be further highlighted, not only to Bulacan but to the whole

¹ <https://www.balagtas.gov.ph/index.php/tourism/bahay-na-tisa>

² <https://tinyurl.com/3jcsddva> and <https://tinyurl.com/yn4xnyyy>

country as well. This is in consonance with Article 14, Section 16 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution which states: "All the country's artistic and historic wealth constitutes the cultural treasure of the nation and shall be under the protection of the State which may regulate its disposition."

Considering the foregoing, the immediate approval of this proposed measure is earnestly sought.


AGATHA PAULA "AGAY" A. CRUZ
Representative, Fifth District of Bulacan

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**AN ACT DECLARING BAHAY NA TISA IN BALAGTAS, BULACAN AS A
HISTORICAL AND TOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Bahay na Tisa Historical and Tourism Site Act.”

Section 2. *Scope and Coverage.* – Bahay na Tisa, located in Balagtas, Bulacan is hereby declared a historical and tourist site. In view thereof, the development and preservation of Bahay na Tisa shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with the Municipality of Balagtas and other related agencies, subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of historical and tourist sites.

Section 3. *Tourism Development Plan.* – The DOT in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and other government agencies, including the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, shall prepare a tourism development plan. The said tourism development plan shall consist, among others, the development and maintenance, including improvement and restoration of the site: *Provided*, that said tourism development plan shall ensure the preservation of Bahay na Tisa.

Section 4 *Implementation.* – The DOT, in coordination with TIEZA and other concerned agencies including the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

Section 5. *Appropriations and funding.* – The Secretary of the DOT in the Department’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.

Section 6. *Separability clause.* - If any provision of this Act shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Act.

Section 7. *Repealing clause.* - All provisions of laws, presidential decrees, letters of instruction and other presidential issuances which are incompatible or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed amended or repealed.

Section 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,