

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3263**



Introduced by **HON. JOSEFINA B. TALLADO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Parroquia de Nuestra Senora de Candelaria, established in the year 1611, is the oldest and first church in the Province of Camarines Norte. The church was built by Franciscan friars and features the canonically miraculous image of Our Lady of Candelaria.

The four (4) century-old stone church sits at the center of the town of Paracale in the 1st District of the province of Camarines Norte. The church has been a testament to the rich cultural heritage of the province, which structure has withstood a long period of time amidst the natural and man-made calamities.

This bill, therefore, aims to declare the *Parroquia de Nuestra Senora de Candelaria*, in the municipality of Paracale, Camarines Norte, a pilgrimage site and tourist destination, mandating the Department of Tourism and its attached agencies, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways and in consultation with the local government unit of Paracale, to come up with a comprehensive development plan for the improvement of infrastructures near *Parroquia de Nuestra Senora de Candelaria*, and all roads leading to and from it.

The passage of this bill will also benefit the people of Paracale and the surrounding municipalities as a possible source of livelihood derived from the influx of tourists who will pay homage to and visit the *Parroquia de Nuestra Senora de Candelaria*.

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


HON. JOSEFINA B. TALLADO
Representative
1st District, Camarines Norte

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AN ACT DECLARING THE *PARROQUIA DE NUESTRA SENORA DE CANDELARIA*, IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PARACALE, CAMARINES NORTE, AS A PILGRIMAGE SITE AND AS A TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. The Parroquia de Nuestra Senora de Candelaria, in the municipality of Paracale, Camarines Norte, is hereby declared a pilgrimage site and a tourist destination. As such, it shall be accorded with priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and other concerned agencies subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of pilgrimage sites and tourist destinations.

SECTION 2. The DOT, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and other concerned agencies of the government shall, immediately after the effectivity of this Act, prepare a development plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall improve the overall feature of the area thereby ensuring the accessibility and security of the pilgrims and tourists; Provided, that the said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the historical significance of the area.

SECTION 3. The DOT and its attached agencies shall take immediate steps in implementing the tourism development plan that will suit the needs of the *Parroquia de Nuestra Senora de Candelaria*, and shall incorporate the same in its overall development plans and programs for national implementation.

SECTION 4. The DOT, in consultation with the local government unit of Paracale, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be charges against the internally generated funds of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and/or the appropriations in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

Approved.