

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4550



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Sta. Monica Parish Church, a historical and cultural gem in the Municipality of Angat, Bulacan, is a testament to the deep-rooted faith and heritage of the Filipino people. Founded in 1683 during the Spanish colonial period, the church has served as a center of religious life and a beacon of hope for generations. Its architectural beauty, historical significance, and spiritual atmosphere make it a worthy destination for pilgrims and devotees seeking solace, reflection, and a deeper connection with their faith.

This bill seeks to formally recognize the Sta. Monica Parish Church and its immediate environs as a pilgrimage site and a place of worship. By doing so, we aim to preserve its historical and religious integrity, promote its spiritual significance, and ensure its accessibility to the public. The development of the area will not only enhance the spiritual experience of visitors but also contribute to the local economy through tourism and related activities.

This measure is in line with the government's commitment to preserve our cultural heritage and promote religious freedom. It is also a recognition of the vital role that places of worship play in the lives of our people.

In view thereof, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

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**AN ACT DECLARING THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS OF THE STA. MONICA
PARISH CHURCH IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANGAT, PROVINCE OF
BULACAN, AS A PILGRIMAGE SITE AND A PLACE OF WORSHIP,
PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Sta. Monica Parish
Church Pilgrimage Site Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
preserve and promote historical and cultural sites, particularly those with
significant religious value. The State shall ensure the protection,
development, and accessibility of such sites for the spiritual and cultural
enrichment of the Filipino people.

SEC. 3. *Declaration of Pilgrimage Site.* - The Sta. Monica Parish Church and
its immediate environs, located in the Municipality of Angat, Province of
Bulacan, are hereby declared a pilgrimage site and a place of worship. The
boundaries of the site shall be determined by the Department of Tourism
(DOT) in coordination with the National Historical Commission of the
Philippines (NHCP) and the local government unit of Angat.

SEC. 4. *Development and Management.* – The DOT, in coordination with the NHCP, the Local Government of Angat, and the Sta. Monica Parish Church administration, shall formulate and implement a comprehensive development and management plan for the pilgrimage site. The plan shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) The preservation and restoration of the church and other historical structures within the site.
- (b) The development of facilities for pilgrims and tourists, such as a visitors' center, restrooms, and parking areas.
- (c) The implementation of a sustainable tourism program that respects the sanctity of the place.
- (d)
- (e) The promotion of the site as a spiritual and cultural destination.

SEC. 5. *Funding.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The local government of Angat may also allocate funds from its own resources for the development and maintenance of the site.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, and rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,