

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4947



Introduced by **Representative AGATHA PAULA "AGAY" A. CRUZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

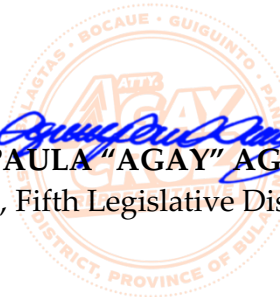
Francisco Balagtas Baltazar wrote verses so powerful they continue to shape our national consciousness. The very home where his genius blossomed in Panginay, Balagtas, Bulacan, however, sits vulnerable to time, piecemeal funding, neglect, and uncoordinated interventions. This measure declares that residence a historical and tourism site and gives it the coordinated management, preservation, and promotion it has long deserved.

By creating Francisco Balagtas Heritage Site Development Council composed of the local government, the Department of Tourism, the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, and other partners, this bill puts real hands and real funds behind our cultural commitments under the Constitution and the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009. The measure also mandates educational and cultural programs so that visitors may encounter not just a monument but a living classroom on the life and works of the *Prinsipe ng Makatang Tagalog*.

This bill is not mere nostalgia; it is an investment in cultural identity and national pride. The home of the Father of Philippine can become a sustainable tourism asset and a beacon of local pride. By passing this measure, we honor Balagtas not only with plaques and ceremonies but with action that lets his legacy breathe and flourish.

Let us breathe new life to the legacy of Gat Francisco Balagtas Baltazar by enacting this measure. Immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


AGATHA PAULA "AGAY" AGUILAR CRUZ
Representative, Fifth Legislative District of Bulacan



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AN ACT
DECLARING THE RESIDENCE OF GAT FRANCISCO BALAGTAS BALTAZAR,
LOCATED IN BARANGAY PANGINAY, MUNICIPALITY OF BALAGTAS,
PROVINCE OF BULACAN, AS A HISTORICAL AND TOURISM SITE,
PROVIDING FOR ITS PRESERVATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND PROMOTION

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Gat Francisco Balagtas
2 Baltazar Historical and Tourism Site Act.”
3

4 **Section 2. Scope and Coverage.** – The residence of Gat. Francisco Balagtas Baltazar,
5 located in Panginay, Balagtas, Bulacan, is hereby declared a historical and tourist site.
6 Pursuant to this declaration, its preservation, development, and promotion shall be a
7 priority of the State consistent with Republic Act No. 10066, otherwise known as the
8 “National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009.”
9

10 **Section 3. Management.** – A Francisco Balagtas Heritage Site Development
11 Council is hereby created to oversee the management, preservation, and promotion of the
12 site. It shall be chaired by the Mayor of Balagtas with the Department of Tourism (DOT)
13 and National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), as co-chair, and
14 composed of representatives from the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone
15 Authority (TIEZA), the provincial government of Bulacan, and local cultural or historical
16 organizations.
17

18 **Section 4. Tourism Development Plan.** – Within one (1) year after the effectivity of
19 this Act, the Council, in coordination with the DOT, TIEZA, NHCP, and other relevant
20 government agencies, shall prepare and adopt a comprehensive tourism development
21 plan for the site.
22

23 The plan shall include, among others, the development, improvement, restoration

1 and maintenance of the site, visitor facilities, security measures, and programs to ensure
2 public access: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation of the
3 historical integrity of the site: *Provided, further*, That all plans, designs and interventions
4 affecting the historical structure shall be subject to review and approval of the NHCP.
5

6 **Section 5. *Cultural and Educational Programs.*** – The Council, in coordination
7 with the NHCP, DOT, and the Department of Education (DepEd) shall develop
8 educational, research, and cultural programs, museum exhibitions, and interpretive
9 materials highlighting the life and works of Gat Francisco Balagtas Baltazar.
10

11 **Section 6. *Assistance and Promotion.*** – The DOT, in coordination with TIEZA,
12 NHCP, and other concerned agencies, shall provide technical assistance and capacity-
13 building programs to the municipal government and the Council. The DOT shall also
14 include the site in all its regional and national promotion programs.
15

16 **Section 7. *Funding.*** – The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be
17 included in the annual budget of the municipal government of Balagtas. The DOT may
18 augment such allocation with internally-generated funds.
19

20 **Section 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from
21 the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in consultation with the municipal government of
22 Balagtas, NHCP, TIEZA, the Council, and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the
23 necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.
24

25 **Section 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act is held
26 unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in
27 full force and effect.
28

29 **Section 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and
30 regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
31 repealed or modified accordingly.
32

33 **Section 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the
34 completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.
35

36 *Approved,*