

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6211



Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING

AN ACT
DECLARING THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS OF THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION PARISH CHURCH LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
NAMPICUAN, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA, AS TOURISM DESTINATION

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Immaculate Conception Parish Church in the Municipality of Nampicuan, Province of Nueva Ecija, holds deep cultural, historical, and spiritual significance. It is home to the exact replica of the Holy Veil of Manoppello, believed by the faithful to be the burial cloth of Jesus Christ, making it a revered pilgrimage site for both local and international visitors.

Beyond its religious importance, the site also offers potential for cultural tourism and local economic development. Declaring the church's immediate environs as a tourism destination will enable the national government, through the Department of Tourism and in partnership with the municipal government of Nampicuan, to implement strategic programs that will enhance its accessibility, preserve its historical integrity, and promote its cultural heritage.

This measure seeks to support the conservation of the church's legacy while also uplifting the surrounding community through infrastructure development, capacity building, and tourism promotion. It is a step toward sustaining a vital part of our national heritage and fostering inclusive growth in the region.

This bill was approved on Third and Final Reading during the 19th Congress. In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING
1st District of Nueva Ecija

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

SECTION 1. The immediate environs of the Immaculate Conception Parish Church, where the exact replica of the Holy Veil of Manoppello or the burial cloth of Jesus Christ is enthroned, located in the Municipality of Nampicuan, Province of Nueva Ecija, are hereby declared as tourism destination. Pursuant thereto, the development of the immediate environs of the Immaculate Conception Parish Church shall be prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourism destinations.

SEC. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the municipal government of Nampicuan shall, in coordination with the DOT, Department of Public Works and Highways and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate infrastructure and facilities to improve the overall features of the immediate environs surrounding the Immaculate Conception Parish Church, thereby ensuring its accessibility and the security of tourists: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the historical significance of the church: *Provided, further*, That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the municipal government of Nampicuan.

SEC. 3. The DOT shall assist the municipal government of Nampicuan in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include the environs of the Immaculate Conception Parish Church in its national and regional promotion programs.

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

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

SEC. 6. If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees, and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,