The Immaculate Conception Parish Church and the Municipality of Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija have been bestowed a great blessing when the Holy Face of Manoppello – the veil “no human hands have made” and believed to miraculously bear an imprint of Christ’s face\(^1\) - was formally enshrined in said church on September 15, 2014.

Radyo Veritas reported that Fr. Carmine Cucinelli, Rector of the Shrine and Basilica of the Holy Face of Manoppello in Italy, has chosen the aforementioned church to be the center of devotion of Holy Face of Manoppello in the country.\(^2\)

The Holy Face has been housed for the last 500 years in the Capuchin Convent\(^3\) in Abruzzo, Pescara. Pope Benedict XVI’s visits in the Shrine in the early days of his Papacy have drawn thousands of pilgrims to the small community. These Papal visits called unprecedented attention to the Veil’s major significance in the history of Jesus Christ’s life on earth.

Since the enthronement of the Holy Face of Manoppello at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church in Nampicuan, thousands of pilgrims, devotees, and tourists have already flocked to the small town.

This bill, therefore, aims to declare the Immaculate Conception Parish Church, Sanctuary of the Holy Face of Jesus, in the Municipality of Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija, as a pilgrimage site and tourist destination,

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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 Nampicuan, to come up with a comprehensive development plan for the improvement of the Immaculate Conception Parish Church, Sanctuary of the Holy Face of Jesus, all areas attached to it, and all roads leading to and from it.

This bill was filed as HB No. 7291 during the 17th Congress and was passed on Third and Final Reading. In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

[Signature]

ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING
Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City  

Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session  

House Bill No. 292  

Introduced by Representative Estrellita B. Suansing

AN ACT  
DECLARING IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH CHURCH, SANCTUARY  
OF THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS, IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NAMPICUAN,  
PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECija A PILGRIMAGE SITE AND TOURIST  
DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. The Immaculate Conception Parish Church, Sanctuary of the  
Holy Face of Jesus, located in the Municipality of Nampicuan, Province of  
Nueva Ecija is hereby declared a pilgrimage site and a tourist destination. As  
such, its development shall be prioritized 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.

2 SEC. 2. The technical description of the area encompassing the Immaculate  
Conception Parish, Sanctuary of the Holy Face of Jesus and its immediate  
environ, being declared as a pilgrimage site and tourist destination are as  
follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lines</th>
<th>Bearings</th>
<th>Distances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LOT 477</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>S 15'13E</td>
<td>64.67 meters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>S7T25W</td>
<td>58.01 meters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>N16°46W</td>
<td>67.41 meters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-1</td>
<td>N 73°57E</td>
<td>53.86 meters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LOT 715</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>N 73°56E</td>
<td>53.91 meters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>S 18 55 E</td>
<td>62.19 meters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>S7T25W</td>
<td>58.02 meters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4-1 N 15'13 W 64.67 meters
Tie lines from BLLM # 1, Nampicuan Cad. To Corner “1”:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lot No.</th>
<th>Bearings</th>
<th>Distances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>477</td>
<td>S 48'35 W</td>
<td>222.56 meters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>715</td>
<td>S 48'35 W</td>
<td>222.56 meters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SEC. 3. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and other concerned agencies of the government shall prepare a tourism 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 pilgrims and tourists; Provided, That the said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the historic significance of the area.

SEC. 4. The DOT and its concerned attached agencies shall take immediate steps to implement the tourism development plan that will suit the needs of the Immaculate Conception Parish Church, Sanctuary of the Holy Face of Jesus, and shall incorporate the same in the National Tourism Development Plan.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of the DOT shall include 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.

SEC. 6. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in consultation with the local government unit of Nampicuan, shall promulgate rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

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

Approved,