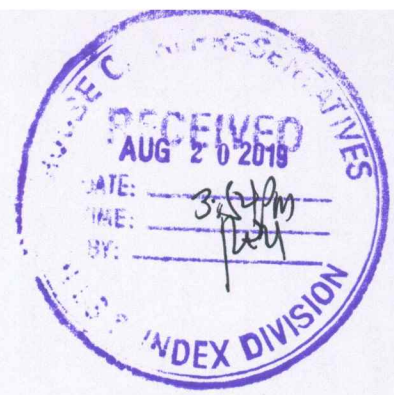


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4080

Introduced by Rep. Christopher P. De Venecia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

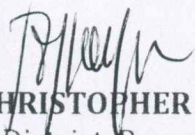
Our Lady of Manaoag is one of the most venerated Marian images in the country. According to the Provincial Tourism and Cultural Affairs Office of Pangasinan, last 2018, there were approximately 7 million local and foreign tourists that visited the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary of Manaoag to pray and venerate. This makes Manaoag one of the most visited places in the Philippines resulting to a denser flow of tourist traffic in the Municipality. This, in turn, augments the need to adopt policies and measures that would protect the historical significance of the area while ensuring accessibility and security to visitors.

It is with the best interest of the government to provide a comprehensive development plan to cater to the needs of the tourists visiting Manaoag considering our commitment to preserving and developing our national heritage.

This bill, therefore, aims to declare the Municipality of Manaoag, Pangasinan, as a tourist destination mandating the Department of Tourism and its attached agencies, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and in consultation with the local government units of Manaoag, to come up with a comprehensive development plan for all areas attached to the Manaoag Shrine and the development of all areas leading to and from Manaoag.

In view the foregoing, I am re-filing this bill that was initially filed in the 17th Congress. This version has passed the Third Reading of the House and was transmitted to Senate but was not acted upon.

The approval of this proposed measure is earnestly sought.


REP. CHRISTOPHER DE VENECIA
Fourth District, Pangasinan

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**AN ACT DECLARING MANAOAG, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, 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 Municipality of Manaoag in the province of Pangasinan, is hereby declared a tourist destination. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and other concerned agencies, in coordination with the LGU of Manaoag, subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourist destinations.

SEC. 2. Immediately after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the Local government of Manaoag, shall prepare a tourism development plan which shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the historical significance of the area.

Also, the DOT, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and other concerned agencies of the government, shall develop a construction plan involving the installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall improve the overall features of the area, thereby ensuring its accessibility and the security of tourist.

SEC.3. The DOT and its concerned attached agencies shall take immediate steps to implement the appropriate tourism development plan for Municipality of Manaoag and shall incorporate the same in the National Tourism Development Plan.

SEC.4. 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 internally generated funds of the DOT.

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

Approved,