

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4427



Introduced by Honorable Deogracias Victor 'DV' B. Savellano

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A people who does not learn from the lessons of the past are bound to repeat its mistakes.

These words from the brilliant philosopher George Santayana ring true today more than ever. It is a clarion call for people the world over to protect the legacies of the past – including important documents, materials, structures and edifices that will help define a society and its culture.

It is fortunate that the Province of Ilocos Sur particularly the City of Vigan realized and continues to appreciate this sage advice. The honor bestowed by the UNESCO to the City of Vigan as one of the seven wonder cities of the world because of its heritage protection and development is a testimony of a people's shared commitment to building on from the past as it charts its future direction. And it pays well to pursue this direction. Today, the City of Vigan continually draws thousands of local and international tourists who wanted to savor its old-world ambience—from the cobble-stoned streets to houses and buildings that date back to two centuries ago.

It is this same collective intent that the Municipality of San Vicente pursues. In this progressive municipality, one can find rich reminders of the past: from the old San Vicente Church with an impressive façade to the Gabaldon Building type of school building to the Palacio de Gobernador, Spanish Baldi, Diego Silang Marker and the many ancestral houses spread in different areas of the town are vestiges of a glorious, historical past. All these the people of San Vicente want to preserve and protect for posterity – as evident reminders of a prominent past their town played in the collective history of the Province of Ilocos Sur.

The need then to declare these cultural and historical assets as the patrimony of the Municipality of San Vicente is the intent of this bill. Approval of this measure is then earnestly sought.

Hon. Deogracias Victor 'DV' B Savellano



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AN ACT

DECLARING THE OLD SAN VICENTE CHURCH, GABALDON BUILDING, PALACIO DE GOBERNADOR, SPANISH BALDI, DIEGO SILANG MARKER, ANCESTRAL HOUSES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN VICENTE, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR AS CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PATRIMONY OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN VICENTE AND BESTOWING IT WITH RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES ACCORDED MUSEUM CURATORS

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

SECTION 1. The Old San Vicente Church, Gabaldon Building, Palacio del Gobernador, Spanish Baldi, Diego Silang Marker, and ancestral houses in the Municipality of San Vicente, Province of Ilocos Sur are hereby declared cultural heritage structures and historical patrimony of the Municipality of San Vicente, Ilocos Sur, vesting it with rights and responsibilities accorded museum curators.

SECTION 2. The National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) and the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) after undertaking the necessary documentation, shall extend the necessary assistance to the Municipality of San Vicente to ensure that these cultural and historical assets are properly preserved and enhanced, providing the needed initial funding support.

SECTION 3. Implementation. The concerned agencies stated above shall issue the necessary rules, orders, and circulars to implement the provision of this Act.

SECTION 4. All laws, rules, regulations, proclamations, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended accordingly.

SECTION 5. If any section or part of this Act is held unconstitutional, no other section or provision shall be affected.

SECTION 6. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,