



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9951

BY REPRESENTATIVES ALBANO, ARAGONES, BASCUG, VIOLAGO, GATO, GO (M.), MATUGAS, FARINAS (R.C.), EBCAS, BAÑAS-NOGRALES, DAGOOC, SAULOG, GUYA, SAVELLANO, BARBA, DY (F.), FRASCO, LOYOLA, SILVERIO AND ELAGO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1117

AN ACT
DECLARING THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS OF THE SAINT MATTHIAS PARISH CHURCH LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUMAUNI, PROVINCE OF ISABELA, A TOURISM DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The immediate environs of the Saint Matthias Parish Church located in
2 the Municipality of Tumauni, Province of Isabela, is hereby declared a tourism destination.
3 As such, the development of the immediate environs of the Saint Matthias Parish Church
4 shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with the municipal
5 government of Tumauni and other concerned agencies, subject to the rules and regulations
6 governing the development of tourism destinations.

7 **SEC. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT shall, in
8 coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the National
9 Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), the municipal government of Tumauni
10 and other concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan that

1 shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and
2 infrastructure to improve the overall features of the immediate environs surrounding the Saint
3 Matthias Parish Church, thereby ensuring its accessibility and the security of tourists:
4 *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the
5 historical significance of the area.

6 **SEC. 3.** The DOT and its concerned attached agencies shall take immediate steps to
7 implement the tourism development plan for the immediate environs of the Saint Matthias
8 Parish Church, and shall incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the
9 calendar year immediately succeeding the approval of this Act.

10 **SEC. 4.** The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the
11 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
12 Appropriations Act, and shall augment such allocation with internally generated funds of the
13 Department.

14 **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT shall, in
15 consultation with the municipal government of Tumauni, promulgate the necessary rules and
16 regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

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

Approved,