

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5779



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Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

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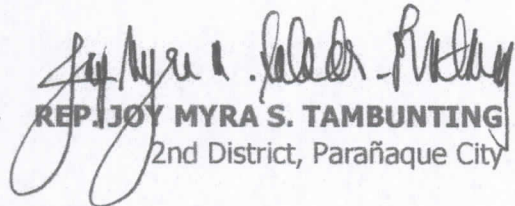
#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians, was created by Jaime Cardinal Sin on June 1975. It was inaugurated on July 24, 1975 and solemnly consecrated on December 4, 1976 during the Silver Jubilee Year celebrations of Salesians presence in the Philippines. It was a decade after, in 1985, when the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines gave the church the title of a National Shrine. Since then National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians has been a rallying point and source of inspiration to both parishioner and devotees of Mary, Help of Christians.

For years now, the National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians is considered to be one of attractions in Parañaque city, which is visited by numerous pilgrims, devotees and tourists yearly.

This proposed measure seeks to declare the National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians, located in Barangay Don Bosco, Parañaque City, as a tourist destination; and mandate the Department of Tourism, its attached agencies in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways and other concerned agencies of the government to prepare a comprehensive development plan to improve the overall features of the area surrounding the National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians, and ensure its accessibility and the security of the tourists.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.

  
**REP. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**  
2nd District, Parañaque City

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**AN ACT**  
**DECLARING THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS, LOCATED IN**  
**BARANGAY DON BOSCO, PARAÑAQUE CITY, A 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:*

SECTION 1. The National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians, located in Barangay Don Bosco, Parañaque City is hereby declared a tourist destination. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) in coordination with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) and other concerned agencies subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of heritage site and tourist destinations.

SEC. 2. 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 features of the area surrounding the National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians, thereby ensuring its accessibility and the security of the faithful and tourists; Provided, That said development plan shall ensure its preservation and conservation of the historical significance of the area.

SEC. 3. The DOT and its concerned attached agencies shall take immediate steps to implement the appropriate tourism development plan for the National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians and its immediate environs 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. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in consultation with the local government unit of Paranaque City, shall issue rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication 1n the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*