

**Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City**

**Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session**

House Bill No. 292



Introduced by Representative Estrellita B. Suansing

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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 face¹ - 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 Convent³ 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,

¹ Manoppello veil enshrined in Nueva Ecija Town by Raymund A. Sebastian. September 22, 2014 (www.cbcnews.com)

² Holy Face of Jesus of Manoppello, pormal na iniluklok sa Immaculate Conception Parish, Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija by Arnel Pelacio. September 17, 2014 (www.veritsas846.ph)

³ Manila awaits the Holy Face of Jesus from Manoppello, Italy by Matey Alberto. September 4-10, 2014. Las Vegas Asian Journal (www.asianjournal.com)

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.


ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING

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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:

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.

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

Lines	Bearings	Distances
	LOT 477	
1-2	S 15°13'E	64.67 meters
2-3	S7T25W	58.01 meters
3-4	N11°46'W	67.41 meters
4-1	N 73°57'E	53.86 meters
	LOT 715	
1-2	N 73°56'E	53.91 meters
2-3	S 18 55 E	62.19 meters
1	S7T25W	58.02 meters

4-1 N 15'13 W 64.67 meters
Tie lines from BLLM # 1, Nampicuan Cad. To Corner "1":

Lot No.	Bearings	Distances
477	S 48'35 W	222.56 meters
715	S 48'35 W	222.56 meters

1 **SEC. 3.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in
2 coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and
3 other concerned agencies of the government shall prepare a tourism
4 development plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of
5 such appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall improve the overall
6 feature of the area thereby ensuring the accessibility and security of pilgrims
7 and tourists; *Provided*, That the said development plan shall ensure the
8 preservation and conservation of the historic significance of the area.

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

14 **SEC. 5.** The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program
15 the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the
16 annual General Appropriations Act and from internally-generated funds of the
17 DOT.

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

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

Approved,