



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 10570

BY REPRESENTATIVES FARÍÑAS (R.C.), FARÍÑAS I (R.C.), ARAGONES, BASCUG, VIOLAGO, GATO, GO (M.), MATUGAS, EBCAS, BAÑAS-NOGRALES, DAGOOC, SAULOG, GUYA, SAVELLANO, ALBANO (A.), BARBA, DY (F.), FRASCO, LOYOLA, SILVERIO AND ELAGO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1362

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE SINKING BELL TOWER LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LAOAG,
PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE, 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 Sinking Bell Tower located in the City of Laoag, Province of Ilocos
2 Norte, is hereby declared a tourism destination. As such, the protection and preservation of the
3 Sinking Bell Tower, as well as the development of the area surrounding it, shall be prioritized by
4 the Department of Tourism, subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of
5 tourism destinations.

6 SEC. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT shall, in coordination
7 with the Department of Public Works and Highways, the National Historical Commission of the
8 Philippines (NHCP), the city government of Laoag, and concerned agencies of the government

1 and stakeholders, prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the construction,
2 installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure to enhance tourism in
3 the area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation of the historical and
4 cultural significance of the Sinking Bell Tower: *Provided, further*, That any intervention work,
5 activity and development to be carried out in the area shall conform with the provisions of Republic
6 Act No. 10066, otherwise known as the “National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009”

7 **SEC. 3.** The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the tourism development plan
8 and shall incorporate the same in its overall tourism program for the calendar year immediately
9 succeeding the approval of this Act. It shall also include the Sinking Bell Tower in all its national,
10 regional and local promotion programs.

11 **SEC. 4.** The Secretary of DOT and Chairman of the NHCP shall include in their respective
12 programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual
13 General Appropriations Act, and shall augment such allocation with internally generated funds of
14 DOT.

15 **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT shall, in
16 consultation with the NHCP, the city government of Laoag, and concerned government agencies
17 and stakeholders, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of
18 this Act.

19 **SEC. 6.** All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees and other issuances inconsistent
20 with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,