

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
*First Regular Session*



**Senate**  
Office of the Secretary

22 OCT 12 A9:52

**SENATE**  
S.B. No. 1376

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Introduced by **SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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**AN ACT**  
**DECLARING SAN PABLO CHURCH, LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN PABLO, PROVINCE OF ISABELA, AND ITS ADJACENT ENVIRONS, A TOURISM DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The San Pablo Church, the oldest church in the Province of Isabela, was built in 1624 during the Spanish Regime. Despite being heavily damaged during World War II, San Pablo Church boasts of its famous six (6)-level bell tower with its circular apex being built with adobe.

Pilgrims, tourists and even natives flock the Church not only to celebrate the Holy Mass but also to experience its beauty and architectural brilliance. Indeed, the people of Isabela benefit in the profits that tourism provides in the Municipality and its neighbouring towns.

This bill seeks to declare San Pablo Church, located in the Municipality of San Pablo, Isabela, and its adjacent environs, a tourism destination. This will assist the Municipality in its needed appropriation and support to further boost its local tourism.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**  
Senator 

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DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1           **Section 1.** The San Pablo Church, located in the Municipality of San Pablo,  
2 Province of Isabela, and its adjacent environs, are hereby declared tourism  
3 destination. As such, the development of the Church and its adjacent environs shall  
4 be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with the municipal  
5 government of San Pablo and other concerned agencies, subject to the rules and  
6 regulations governing the development of tourist destinations.

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8           **Sec. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT shall, in  
9 coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the National  
10 Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), the municipal government of San  
11 Pablo and other concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism  
12 development plan that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of  
13 such facilities and infrastructure to improve the overall features of the Church and its  
14 adjacent environs, thereby ensuring its accessibility and the security of tourists:  
15 *Provided,* That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation  
16 of the historical significance of the area.

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**Sec. 3.** The DOT and its attached agencies shall take immediate steps to implement the appropriate tourism development plan for the Church and its adjacent environs and shall incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the calendar year immediately succeeding the approval of this Act.

**Sec. 4.** The Secretaries of the DOT and the DPWH shall include in their respective Departments' program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act, and shall augment such allocation with the internally generated funds of the DOT.

**Sec. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in consultation with the municipal government of San Pablo, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

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

*Approved.*