

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2234



Introduced by **Hon. Charisse Anne C. Hernandez**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution guarantees the protection and fostering of our cultural and historical heritage. It was provided in Article XIV, Section 14 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution which states: *“The State shall foster the preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of a Filipino national culture based on the principle of unity in diversity in a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression.”*. Also Section 15 of the same article expresses that *“Arts and letters shall enjoy the patronage of the State.* Lastly, in Section 16 of Article XIV, it provides that *“The State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation’s historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations.”*. In order to further strengthen these constitutional provisions, Republic Act No. 10066 or the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009 was enacted. Article IV of the said law provides for the designation and maintenance of heritage zones in order to protect the historical and cultural integrity of a geographical area.

The City of Calamba has a meaningful history and rich cultural heritage. A lot of historical sites are situated in the said city. One of which is St. John the Baptist Church, where Dr. José Rizal, our National Hero, was baptized. Located near the church is the Rizal Shrine, reconstructed in 1949 and is now maintained by the National Historical Institute. The said historical sites are located along Mercado Street and Rizal Street in Brgy. 5 (Poblacion), Calamba City. F. Mercado street was named before the father of our National Hero. He was married to Teodora Alonso and resided in the City of Calamba and built a business in agriculture. On the other hand, JP Rizal Street was named after our very own Dr. José Rizal. These roads are used in order to get to these locations. They are essential and meaningful. Furthermore, these landmarks can be considered as cultural treasures and of historical significance as they were not only named before notable persons, but they lead to historical places which survived the test of time.

This bill seeks to declare F. Mercado Street and JP Rizal Street as historical and cultural zones. The significance of these landmarks needs to be preserved and made known not only to

the people of Calamba City, but also to the world. With the passage of this bill, it is intended that the Department of Tourism and other suitable agencies would be able to put into place long-term plans to advertise and protect these cultural treasures, allowing cultural tourism to thrive.



CHARISSE ANNE C. HERNANDEZ

Representative

Lone District, Calamba City

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AN ACT DECLARING F. MERCADO STREET AND JP RIZAL STREET IN THE CITY OF CALAMBA, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA AS HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL ZONES

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

SECTION. 1. The aforementioned streets surrounding Rizal Shrine located in the City of Calamba, Province of Laguna is hereby declared as historical and cultural zones. As such it shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT) in coordination with the National Historical Institute, the National Museum, and other government agencies. It shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourist zones.

SEC. 2. The Rizal Shrine located in the City of Calamba was a reproduction of a two-story, Spanish-Colonial style house where Dr. José Rizal was born. The house is designated as a National Shrine (Level 1) by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines. It is located along F. Mercado Street and JP Rizal Street in Calamba's Poblacion 5.

SEC. 3. The DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), and other concerned agencies of the government, including the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), The National Museum of the Philippines, and other government agencies, including the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), shall prepare the necessary tourism development plan, providing for their development and maintenance, including improvement and restoration of sites, *Provided*, that the said development plan shall ensure the preservation of the cultural heritage and historical significance of the area/s concerned.

SEC. 4. The DPWH shall coordinate with the DOT for the necessary construction and/or improvement of roads and other infrastructure projects upon promulgation of this Act, and incorporate the design, construction and funding of the same in its infrastructure programs.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of the DOT and the Secretary of the DPWH shall include in their respective programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act or charged against the internally generated funds of the DOT.

SEC. 6. The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the development plan and incorporate this in the Department's overall tourism development program for the ensuing year. The DOT shall likewise promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,