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ECONOMIC GROWTH CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS OF IGLESIA DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA ESCALERA "LUMANG SIMBAHAN": A PROJECT PROPOSAL

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ABSTRACT

This study, titled "Economic Growth Contributions And Benefits Of Iglesia De Nuestra Señora De La Escalera "Lumang Simbahan"; A Project Proposal," aimed to examine how the historical and cultural significance of the "Lumang Simbahan" contributes to the economic growth and development of the local community. The research sought to determine its influence on tourism, livelihood, and small business opportunities surrounding the area.

A descriptive research design was utilized, and data were gathered from 50 respondents, including local vendors around the "Lumang Simbahan", through surveys and interviews. Statistical tools such as weighted mean and ranking were used to analyze the data collected.

The findings revealed that the "Lumang Simbahan" plays a vital role in promoting local economic activities. It attracts both local and foreign visitors, which increases local income and supports small-scale businesses such as food stalls, souvenir shops, and transportation services. Moreover, the church's presence fosters cultural awareness and enhances tourism potential in the area of "Lumang Simbahan".

The study highlights that preserving and promoting the "Lumang Simbahan" as a heritage site can greatly support sustainable economic growth. It is suggested to implement the proposed floor plan project and instructional module to strengthen the church's role in

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local development. The floor plan can serve as a guide for setting up small stalls and souvenir shops, while the instructional module can help train residents in business management, customer service, and sustainable tourism. These efforts will create more livelihood opportunities for the community while maintaining the cultural and historical importance of the "Lumang Simbahan".

Keywords: Lumang Simbahan, Economic Growth, Heritage Tourism, Infrastructure Development, Local Government and Private Support, Increased Tourism and Local revenue, Job creation and livelihood opportunities, Community pride and cultural identity, Infrastructure and area development, Support for sustainable and inclusive growth

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