



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6401

BY REPRESENTATIVE SALIMBANGON, PER COMMITTEE REPORT No. 2276

AN ACT DECLARING THE ISLAND OF MALAPASCUA IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy
2 of the State to promote a sustainable tourism industry. Towards this end, the
3 country shall rationalize all efforts pertaining to environmental protection and
4 making the tourism industry a major source of livelihood and an avenue for the
5 generation of employment. Henceforth, aggressive measures seeking to restore
6 the country's share in the Asian tourist market shall be undertaken consistent
7 with the preservation of the country's ecosystem and natural environment.

8 Pursuant to the above policy, the Island of Malapascua in the Province
9 of Cebu is hereby declared an ecotourism zone.

10 SEC. 2. *Creation of an Ecotourism Task Force.* – Within one (1)
11 year from the approval of this Act, there shall be created an Ecotourism Task
12 Force whose governing board shall be co-chaired by the Representative of the
13 Fourth District of Cebu and the Governor of Cebu. The membership of the
14 Board shall be composed of representatives from the Department of
15 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Tourism

(DOT), the Department of Health (DOH), the private sector, nongovernment organizations, and the local government units concerned. The funding requirements for the operation of the Ecotourism Task Force shall be charged against the funds of the local government unit concerned.

SEC. 3. *Ecotourism Master Plan.* – The DENR and the DOT shall prepare an ecotourism master plan for the area and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to be approved by the President of the Philippines, upon recommendation of the Board, for implementation by the concerned national government agencies and local government units.

SEC. 4. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the implementation of the ecotourism master plan, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and/or internally generated funds of the Department.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* – Any provision of this Act or part hereof that may be declared unconstitutional shall not affect the effectivity of the other provisions.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations, and other issuances contrary to or inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,