



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8142

BY REPRESENTATIVES LANETE, NOGRALES (K.A.), BATOCABE AND NIETO,
PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 831

AN ACT DECLARING THE ISLAND OF BALANGINGI IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF PIO V. CORPUZ, PROVINCE OF
MASBATE AN ECOTOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
2 promote a sustainable and effective ecotourism industry to attract
3 tourists, both local and foreign. Towards this end, the country shall
4 reconcile all efforts pertaining to environmental protection with
5 those relating to the development of the tourism industry as a
6 major source of livelihood and an avenue for the generation of
7 employment. Aggressive measures shall be taken to restore the
8 country's preeminence in the Asian tourist market: *Provided*, That
9 such measures shall be consistent with the primordial obligation of
10 preserving the existing ecosystem and natural environment.

11 SEC. 2. The Island of Balangingi in the Municipality of Pio V.
12 Corpuz, Province of Masbate is hereby declared an ecotourism site.

1 SEC. 3. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act,
2 there shall be created an ecotourism board, to be known as the
3 Balangingi Ecotourism Governing Board.

4 The Governing Board shall be composed of the following:

5 (a) The Representative of the Third Congressional District of
6 Masbate, as Chairperson;

7 (b) The Secretary of the Department of Tourism (DOT) or a
8 duly authorized representative, as member;

9 (c) The Secretary of the Department of Environment and
10 Natural Resources (DENR) or a duly authorized representative, as
11 member;

12 (d) The Mayor of the Municipality of Pio V. Corpuz, as
13 member; and

14 (e) Three (3) members, to be appointed by the local legislative
15 body, from the following sectors: (1) accredited nongovernment
16 organization advocating the preservation of the environment;
17 (2) the academe; and (3) the business sector. They shall serve for a
18 term of five (5) years, and their appointment may be renewed for
19 another term.

20 Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the
21 Governing Board shall promulgate the appropriate rules and
22 regulations necessary for the implementation of the provisions of
23 this Act. It shall, whenever necessary, amend, modify or revise such
24 rules and regulations to meet existing needs.

25 SEC. 4. The provincial government of Masbate shall provide a
26 Secretariat for the Governing Board, including the necessary
27 expenses for the performance of its official functions and activities.

1 SEC. 5. Within four (4) months from the approval of this Act,
2 the DOT and the DENR shall develop a master plan to be approved
3 by the President of the Republic of the Philippines upon the
4 recommendation of the Governing Board.

5 SEC. 6. The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the
6 Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding
7 of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act
8 and from internally generated funds of the DOT.

9 SEC. 7. If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is
10 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or
11 provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

12 SEC. 8. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules
13 and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof contrary to or
14 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
15 modified accordingly.

16 SEC. 9 This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
17 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general
18 circulation.

Approved,

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