



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9133

---

BY REPRESENTATIVES VELASCO, SY-ALVARADO, CASTRO (F.H.), ROA-PUNO, HOFER, ORTEGA (V.N.), PALMA, NOEL, SALO, GONZALES (A.P.), PIMENTEL, SAVELLANO, GARIN (R.), GARCIA (J.E.), FORTUN, BRAVO (A.), BERTIZ, CAMPOS, SALON, BELARO, GULLAS, TEJADA, VIOLAGO, ZUBIRI, ALEJANO, GONZALES (A.D.), CHIPECO, BORDADO, GO (M.), MANGAOANG, CARI, TREÑAS, FERNANDO, NUÑEZ-MALANYAON, TUPAS, BATAOIL, CUARESMA, ROMUALDO, SILVERIO, DALIPE, CALDERON, MARCOLETA AND VERGARA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1291

---

AN ACT DECLARING TORRIJOS WHITE BEACH LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TORRIJOS, PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE 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. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the  
2 “Torrijos White Beach Ecotourism Act”.

3           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the  
4 policy of the State to promote a sustainable and effective ecotourism  
5 industry to attract tourists, both local and foreign. Towards this  
6 end, the country shall rationalize all efforts to make the tourism  
7 industry a major source of livelihood and an avenue for economic  
8 development. Moreover, measures shall be taken to ensure that  
9 tourism development is consistent with the preservation of the  
10 existing ecosystem and natural environment.

1           SEC. 3. *Ecotourism Site.* – The Torrijos White Beach,  
2 located in the Municipality of Torrijos, Province of Marinduque, is  
3 declared an ecotourism site. As such, its development shall be  
4 prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and other  
5 concerned agencies and shall be subject to the rules and regulations  
6 governing the development of ecotourism sites.

7           SEC. 4. *Ecotourism Governing Board.* – Within one (1) year  
8 from the approval of this Act, there shall be created an ecotourism  
9 governing board, to be known as the Torrijos White Beach  
10 Ecotourism Governing Board, herein referred to as the “Board” and  
11 shall be composed of the following:

12           (a) Mayor of the Municipality of Torrijos, as Chairperson;

13           (b) Secretary of the Department of Tourism (DOT) or a  
14 duly authorized representative, as member;

15           (c) Secretary of the Department of Environment and  
16 Natural Resources (DENR) or a duly authorized representative, as  
17 member;

18           (d) Representative of the Lone District of Marinduque or a  
19 duly authorized representative, as member;

20           (e) A representative from an accredited nongovernmental  
21 organization whose advocacy is environmental preservation, as  
22 member;

23           (f) A representative from the academe, as member; and

24           (g) A representative from the business sector, as member.

25           The Board shall prepare the rules and regulations necessary  
26 for the implementation by the local government of Torrijos of the  
27 provisions of this Act and shall, whenever necessary, amend, modify  
28 or revise such rules and regulations to meet existing needs.

29           SEC. 5. *Ecotourism Development Plan.* – Within one (1) year  
30 from the approval of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the

1 local government of Torrijos, the Representative of the Lone District  
2 of Marinduque and other concerned government agencies, shall  
3 prepare a development plan involving the construction, installation  
4 and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure  
5 which shall enhance tourism in the ecotourism site: *Provided*, That  
6 the said development plan shall ensure the preservation and  
7 conservation of the natural beauty and indigenous nature of the  
8 locality.

9       SEC. 6. *Implementation of the Plan.* – The DOT shall take  
10 immediate steps in implementing the tourism development plan  
11 and incorporate the same in its overall development plans and  
12 programs for national implementation.

13       SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of the DOT shall  
14 include in the Department's program the implementation of this  
15 Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General  
16 Appropriations Act and from internally generated funds of the DOT.

17       SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act  
18 shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not  
19 otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

20       SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees,  
21 executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances, or any  
22 part thereof, which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or  
23 amended accordingly.

24       SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
25 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of  
26 general circulation.

Approved,