

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 6444**

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**Introduced by Representative Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco**

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**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 “Torrijos White Beach  
2 Ecotourism Act.”

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

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

13           **Sec. 4. Ecotourism Governing Board.** – Within one (1) year from the approval of  
14 this Act, there shall be created an ecotourism governing board, to be known as the Torrijos

1 White Beach Ecotourism Governing Board, herein referred to as the "Board" and shall be  
2 composed of the following:

- 3 a) Mayor of the Municipality of Torrijos, as Chairperson;
- 4 b) Secretary of the Department of Tourism (DOT) or a duly-authorized  
5 representative, as member;
- 6 c) Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) or a  
7 duly-authorized representative, as member;
- 8 d) Representative of the Lone District of Marinduque, or a duly-authorized  
9 representative, as member;
- 10 e) A representative from an accredited non-governmental organization whose  
11 advocacy is environmental preservation, as member;
- 12 f) A representative from the academe, as member; and
- 13 g) A representative from the business sector, as member.

14 The Board shall prepare the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation by  
15 the local government unit of Torrijos of the provisions of this Act and shall, whenever  
16 necessary, amend, modify or revise such rules and regulations to meet existing needs.

17 **Sec. 5. Ecotourism Development Plan.** – Within one (1) year from the approval of  
18 this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the municipal government of Torrijos, the  
19 Representative of the Lone District of Marinduque and other concerned government agencies,  
20 shall prepare a development plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of  
21 such appropriate facilities and infrastructure which shall enhance tourism in the ecotourism  
22 site: *Provided*, That the said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation  
23 of the natural beauty and indigenous nature of the locality.

1           **Sec. 6. Implementation of the Plan.** The DOT shall take immediate steps in  
2 implementing the tourism development plan and incorporate the same in its overall  
3 development plans and programs for national implementation.

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

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

10           **Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and  
11 regulations and other issuances, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent herewith are  
12 hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

15           Approved,