

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7984

BY REPRESENTATIVE DELOSO-MONTALLA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 587

AN ACT

**DECLARING MT. TAPULAO LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PALAUIG,
PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND FOREST RESERVE,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** *Mt. Tapulao Ecotourism Zone and Forest Reserve.* - Mount Tapulao
2 located in the Municipality of Palauig, Province of Zambales, is hereby declared an ecotourism
3 zone. The area of five thousand (5,000) hectares of said mountain is hereby declared a forest
4 reserve.

5 **Sec. 2.** *Mt. Tapulao Ecotourism Master Plan.* - Within ninety (90) days after the
6 approval of this Act, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall make
7 an inventory of the existing flora and fauna in Mt. Tapulao that shall be considered in the
8 preparation of an ecotourism master plan for the purpose of this Act.

9 Within one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act, the DENR and the
10 Department of Tourism (DOT) shall develop an ecotourism master plan for Mt. Tapulao, to be
11 approved by the President of the Republic of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the
12 Mt. Tapulao Ecotourism Governing Board.

Sec. 3. *Mt. Tapulao Ecotourism Governing Board.* - The Mt. Tapulao Ecotourism Governing Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, is hereby created. It shall be composed of the following:

- a) Governor of the Province of Zambales, as Chairperson;
- b) Representative of the Second District of Zambales, as Co-chairperson;
- c) Secretaries of the DOT and the DENR, or their duly authorized representatives;
- d) Mayor of the Municipality of Palauig;
- e) Representative from a non-government organization whose advocacy is environmental preservation;
- f) Representative from the academe;
- g) Representative from the business sector; and
- h) Representative from the private sector.

The Board shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act by the concerned local government units, and shall, as the need arises, amend, modify or revise such rules and regulations to meet the needs of changing times: *Provided*, That the provincial government of Zambales shall provide a Secretariat for the Board including the funding necessary to cover expenses for the performance of its official functions and activities.

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

Sec. 5. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, presidential decrees and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

1 **Sec. 7. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
2 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

3 *Approved,*