



Senate
Office of the Secretary

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE]
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES]
First Regular Session]

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

S.B. No. 1154

Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE LUZON DATUM LOCATED IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF MOGPOG, PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE A TOURIST
SPOT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

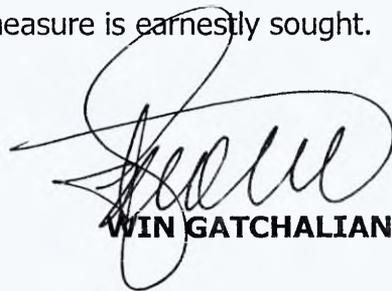
The province of Marinduque, dubbed as the "Heart of the Philippines", is a heart-shaped island in the Southern Tagalog Region. Coincidentally, the island is also the geographical center of the archipelago and a stone marker marks its significance in Philippine geography.

To signify that it is the geographical center of the Philippine archipelago, a marker has been fixed in what is known as the Luzon Datum of 1911 or Station Balanacan. This piece of stone marker is located on top of a hill that locals call Mataas na Bundok or Mt. Mataas in Barangay Hinanggayon, town of Mogpog. It is the primary geodetic reference or origin of all geological surveys in the Philippines which means all maps and surveys made in the country use the Luzon Datum as a reference point.

In other countries, their geographic centers have become tourist attractions due to their creative initiative to build large stone monuments in these centers. Examples of these countries are Japan, India, Taiwan, Australia and the United States of America.

With this current global trend of setting up monuments in their respective geographic centers, it is the right time to convert the Luzon Datum of 1911 into a modern-day tourist spot. As such, the development of a large stone monument in the Luzon Datum is feasible and beneficial, as it will help this country's tourism and will also identify that the Luzon Datum is a significant geographical point in the Philippine archipelago.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



WIN GATCHALIAN



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

1 *SECTION 1. Geodetic Reference or Origin.* - Luzon Datum of 1911 or Station
2 Balanacan, is a stone marker located on top of *Mataas na Bundok* or Mt. Mataas in
3 Barangay Hinanggayon, Municipality of Mogpog, Province of Marinduque. It is the
4 primary geodetic reference or origin of all geological maps and surveys in the
5 Philippines.

6
7 *SEC. 2. Declaration as Tourist Spot.* - The Luzon Datum is hereby declared as
8 a tourist spot. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of
9 Tourism (DOT), and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the
10 development of tourist spots. The DOT shall prioritize the establishment of a tourist
11 center to be known as the Luzon Datum Tourist Center.

1 *SEC. 3. Tourism Development Plan.* - Within six (6) months after the approval
2 of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise
3 Zone Authority (TIEZA) and concerned agencies of the government, shall prepare a
4 tourism development plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of
5 such appropriate facilities and infrastructure as shall encourage tourism in the area:
6 *Provided, That* said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation
7 of the natural beauty and historical significance thereof.

8
9 *SEC. 4. Incorporation in the Tourism. Development Program.* - The DOT shall
10 take immediate steps to implement the development plan and incorporate the same
11 in its tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year.

12
13 *SEC. 5. Appropriation.* - The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the
14 Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be
15 included in the annual General Appropriations Act and from internally-generated funds
16 of the DOT.

17
18 *SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from the
19 effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DOT shall promulgate the necessary rules
20 and regulations for its proper implementation.

21
22 *SEC. 7. Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
23 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,