

22 DEC -5 P 3 :22

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

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE
S.B. No. 1592

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

AN ACT
DECLARING BARANGAY MALICO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA FE
PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

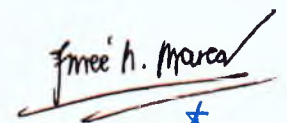
Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "*The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.*"

Barangay Malico is one of the sixteen (16) barangays in the Municipality of Santa Fe, which stretches to the municipalities of Santa Rosa in Nueva Ecija, and San Nicolas in Pangasinan. It is a small barangay with a population of two hundred twenty-six (226) people as determined by the 2015 census, that mostly belong to the *Ikalahan-Kalanguya* tribe. It has an elevation of 1,675 meters above sea level, which is higher than Baguio City. Its cold weather temperature of seven to nine degrees Celsius is suitable for growing crops like strawberries, cabbage, carrots, and other upland vegetables.

Barangay Malico has a picturesque view that offers tourists magnificent landscapes filled with a pine forest that stretches along the Pangasinan-Nueva Vizcaya road. Every portion of the road is Instagram-worthy that gives motorists and tourists a breathtaking view of the undiscovered mountain paradise. The place also offers an amazing view of the sunset over the plains of Nueva Vizcaya and Pangasinan. Tourists may also have a glimpse of World War II because the remains of the Sherman tank which the United States 32nd Infantry Division used during the American-Japanese war, still sit in the middle of the forest. A World War II Peace Memorial Park was also in Barangay Malico, in honor of thousands of gallant soldiers who died in the war.

Hence, this bill seeks to declare Barangay Malico as an ecotourism zone to promote its preservation and to create economic opportunities for local communities. Its cultural heritage, rich natural wonders, untouched nature, and unique terrain requires preservation, sustainability as well as development to enhance and preserve its beauty and progress. It may be recognized as a first-class ecotourism destination if it is equipped with amenities and facilities complementing its full potential as an ecotourism zone.

For the foregoing reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


IMEE R. MARCOS

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

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Barangay Malico, in the Municipality of Santa Fe, Province of Nueva
2 Vizcaya is hereby declared an ecotourism zone. Its development shall be prioritized by
3 the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the
4 development of ecotourism zones.
5
6 **SEC. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT shall, in
7 coordination with the local government units of the Municipality of Santa Fe and
8 agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan involving the
9 construction, installation, and maintenance of appropriate infrastructure and facilities
10 that shall encourage tourism in the area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall
11 ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the
12 area: *Provided, further*, That any activities and development to be carried out in the
13 area should conform with the concept of ecotourism as provided in the national
14 ecotourism strategy jointly issued by the Department of Environment and Natural
15 Resources (DENR) and the DOT.
16
17 **SEC. 3.** The DOT and its attached agencies shall take immediate steps to
18 implement the tourism development plan that suits the natural characteristics of
19 Barangay Malico, and shall incorporate the same in its tourism development program
20 for the ensuing calendar year. It shall also include Barangay Malico in all its national,
21 regional, and local promotion programs.

1 **SEC. 4.** The Secretary of Tourism shall include in the DOT's program the
2 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
3 Appropriations Act and from internally generated funds of the DOT.
4

5 **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of
6 Tourism shall, in consultation with the local government of the Municipality of Santa Fe,
7 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this
8 Act.
9

10 **SEC. 6.** All other laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and
11 regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
12 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.
13

14 **SEC. 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
15 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
16

Approved,