

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

SENATE

S. No. 2477

Introduced by Senator JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Island of Malapascua has been heralded as the "Virgin Boracay of the Philippines". It is part of the Municipality of Daanbantayan, Province of Cebu. The Island of Malapascua is now considered a favorite tourist destination among foreigners and locals alike.

Tourism being the most potent and valuable industry at present, there is a need to create eco-tourism destinations in the Philippines. Hence, the government has to develop, counter and address the issues on marketing, accessibility, infrastructure, product development and transportation of Malapascua Island which would contribute to the success of tourism industry in our country vis-à-vis the preservation of the natural resources, the natural beauty of the island as well as its local heritage. In fact, its tourism potential is an intrinsic function of the rich biodiversity of the island.

The environmental attributes and rich natural resources of Malapascua apart from its natural beauty, are what make it potentially an eco-tourism destination in the country. Malapascua Island can definitely be of more help to our nation's economy when it becomes an eco-tourism destination in the Philippines without prejudicing the preservation of its environmental attributes and natural resources.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate enactment of this bill is earnestly requested.


JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

SENATE

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE ISLAND OF MALAPASCUA, PROVINCE OF CEBU AS AN
ECO-TOURISM DESTINATION OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

1 **Section 1. State Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
2 promote sustainable tourism industry.

3
4 Towards that end, the country shall rationalize all efforts pertaining to
5 environmental protection and making the industry a major source of livelihood and an
6 avenue for the generation of employment. Henceforth, aggressive measure seeking to
7 restore the country's share in the Asian tourist market shall be consistent with the
8 preservation of the existing ecosystem and natural environment.

9
10 **Section 2.** Pursuant to the public policy, the Island of Malapascua, Province of
11 Cebu is hereby declared an eco-tourism destination of the Philippines .

12
13 **Section 3. Creation of Eco-Tourism Task Force.** – Within a year from the
14 approval of this Act, there shall be created an Eco Tourism Task Force whose
15 governing board shall be co-chaired by the Congressman and the Governor of Cebu.
16 The membership of the board shall be composed of representatives from the
17 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Tourism
18 (DOT), the Department of Health (DOH), the private sector, the Non-Governmental
19 Organizations, and the local government units concerned.

20
21 **Section 4.** The DENR and DOT shall prepare an eco-tourism master plan and
22 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to be approved by the President of the

1 Philippines upon recommendation of the board, for implementation by the concerned
2 National Government Agencies and/or Local Government Units.

3
4 **Section 5. Appropriations.** The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the
5 department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be
6 included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

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8 **Section 6.** Any provision of this Act or part thereof that may be declared
9 unconstitutional shall not affect the effectivity of the of the other provisions.

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11 **Section 7.** All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and
12 regulations, and other issuance contrary to or inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed
13 repealed or modified accordingly.

14
15 **Section 8. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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17 Approved.