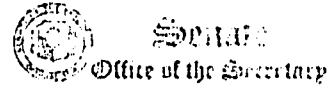


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Second Regular Session)

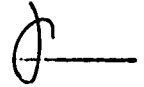


SENATE

20 JUL 22 P 2:40

S. No. 1713

RECEIVED



Introduced by **SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

AN ACT

DECLARING THE MOUNT ARAYAT IN THE PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA AS A PROTECTED AREA UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7586, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11038, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE EXPANDED NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM ACT OF 2018, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Filipinos' right to a healthful ecology is well-enshrined in the 1987 Philippine Constitution as Article II, Section 16 of which 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." In line with safeguarding a healthful ecology, the Constitution likewise states that " Congress shall, as soon as possible, determine by law the specific limits of forest lands and national parks, marking clearly their boundaries on the ground. Thereafter, such forest lands and national parks shall be conserved and may not be increased nor diminished, except by law." ¹

¹ Article XII, Sec. 3, 1987 Philippine Constitution

Pursuant to the said constitutional provisions, the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) was established by virtue of Republic Act (RA) No. 7586, as amended by RA No. 11038, otherwise known as the 'Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018'. Recognizing the exacting impact of diverse human activities on all components of the natural environment, the NIPAS Act declared it the policy of the State "to secure for the Filipino people of present and future generations the perpetual existence of all native plants and animals through the establishment of a comprehensive system of integrated protected areas within the classification of national park as provided for in the Constitution." The system shall encompass ecologically rich, unique and biologically important areas that are habitats of threatened species of plants and animals, biogeographic zones and related ecosystems, whether terrestrial, wetland or marine, all of which shall be designated as 'protected areas'.²

Presently, there are already 107 protected areas in the Philippines that have been so declared through legislation. And yet, based on the records and various suitability assessments by the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), there are still numerous sites in the country that have to be given 'protected area' status, by legislative action, in order to ensure its conservation. One of these sites is the Mount (Mt.) Arayat located in the Province of Pampanga.

Mt. Arayat, formerly known as "Bunduk Alaya" or "Eastern Mountain", is a fabled mountain that is situated within the municipalities of Arayat and Magalang in Pampanga.³ It has a height of 1,026 meters above sea level and is considered as an extinct stratovolcano, with its circular volcanic crater measuring 1.2 kilometers in diameter. Notable features of Mt. Arayat include natural habitats of endemic and endangered flora and fauna, important source of water for domestic and agricultural use of the surrounding communities, clear water cascading from its waterfalls, impressive rock formations and its picturesque surroundings.⁴

² Section 2, RA No. 7586, as amended by RA 11038

³ <https://ecoexplorationsph.com/mount-arayat-national-park/>

⁴ <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1767464/Pampanga/Local-News>

Mt. Arayat is gifted with rich biodiversity. It is home to 49 species of trees, 86 species of wild birds, 14 species of mammals, and 11 species of reptiles. Threatened species of trees, such as Kamagong gubat, Tindalo, Kupang and Bangkal and endangered species, such as Arayat Pitogo, Bitao and Teak could be found at Mt. Arayat. The mountain is also home to the nearly threatened monkey species known as the Philippine macaque.⁵

However, Mt. Arayat is not without environmental challenges. Through time, its once lush greenery has been degraded. Charcoal making, illegal logging and other damaging human activities have taken a toll on the mountain's plant cover. And while there are ongoing reforestation efforts by communities and stakeholders, the efforts should be complemented by a resilient policy geared towards protection.

Bestowing protection by legislative action to Mt. Arayat is long overdue. Conservation efforts on Mt. Arayat date back to 1921 when it was established as a forest reserve. In 1933, Presidential Proclamation No. 594 declared Mt. Arayat as a national park, which was reinforced in 1937 by Proclamation No. 203. In 1994, Mt. Arayat National Park was declared as a tourist spot under RA 7690.

The attached bill seeks to institutionalize the declaration of Mt. Arayat as a protected landscape within the Expanded NIPAS Act, with the aim of preserving its ecological attributes while bringing sustainable ecotourism opportunities to the communities surrounding it.

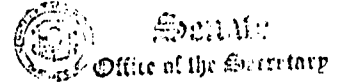
As the Chairperson of the Senate Committee of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, I am pleased to file this bill. It is a counterpart measure of House Bill No. 4420 authored by Hon. Aurelio "Dong" D. Gonzales Jr., the Representative of the 3rd District of Pampanga.

In view of the foregoing, I recommend the approval of this measure.


CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

⁵ Ibid.

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



20 JUL 22 P2:40

SENATE

S. No. 1713

RECEIVED

Introduced by **SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

AN ACT

DECLARING THE MOUNT ARAYAT IN THE PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA AS A PROTECTED AREA UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7586, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11038, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE EXPANDED NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM ACT OF 2018, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Mt. Arayat Protected
2 Landscape Act of 2020”.

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The Mt. Arayat Protected Landscape, as a
4 regular component of NIPAS by virtue of Presidential Proclamation Nos. 594 and
5 203, dated June 27, 1933 and September 16, 1937, respectively, is hereby declared
6 to be included in the list of established protected areas under Section 5 (a.1) of
7 Republic Act No. 7586, as amended by Republic Act No. 11038, categorized under
8 ENIPAS as protected landscape, defined under Section 4 (ee) of the same law, as
9 “an area of national significance which are characterized by the harmonious

1 interaction of man and land and water while providing opportunities for public
2 enjoyment through recreation, tourism, and other economic activities.”

3 **Sec. 3. *Scope and Coverage.*** – The boundaries of the Mt. Arayat Protected
4 Landscape, which falls under the category of protected landscape within the
5 Municipalities of Magalang and Arayat in the Province of Pampanga, are as follows:

6 **Lot 1**

7 Beginning at point marked “1” on Bureau of Forestry Map No. N.P. 3-1, which
8 is $S71^{\circ}36'E$, 7,325.67 meters from M.B.M. No. 19, Magalang Cadastre No. 95,

9	thence	N 70° 00' W	615.27	meters to point 2;
10	thence	N 70° 03' W	661.60	meters to point 3;
11	thence	S 66° 25' W	525.08	meters to point 4;
12	thence	S 75° 01' W	698.62	meters to point 5;
13	thence	N 77° 48' W	1135.47	meters to point 6;
14	thence	N 88° 05' W	895.38	meters to point 7;
15	thence	N 40° 49' W	1000.79	meters to point 8;
16	thence	N 40° 49' W	870.52	meters to point 9;
17	thence	N 40° 06' W	781.24	meters to point 10;
18	thence	N 38° 01' W	623.62	meters to point 11;
19	thence	N 42° 44' E	264.00	meters to point 12;
20	thence	N 42° 44' E	1274.00	meters to point 13;
21	thence	N 42° 44' E	872.00	meters to point 14;
22	thence	N 42° 44' E	1715.78	meters to point 15;
23	thence	N 07° 44' E	1142.32	meters to point 16;
24	thence	N 75° 03' E	141.89	meters to point 17;
25	thence	N 39° 39' E	440.88	meters to point 18;
26	thence	N 76° 20' E	613.77	meters to point 19;
27	thence	N 52° 41' E	149.57	meters to point 20;
28	thence	S 65° 29' E	1379.25	meters to point 21;
29	thence	S 66° 48' E	946.18	meters to point 22;

1	thence	S 48° 27' E	716.05	meters to point 23;
2	thence	S 42° 11' E	432.91	meters to point 24;
3	thence	S 23° 04' E	1280.82	meters to point 25;
4	thence	S 21° 10' E	538.18	meters to point 26;
5	thence	S 26° 52' E	330.97	meters to point 27;
6	thence	S 86° 56' W	865.56	meters to point 28;
7	thence	S 02° 53' W	854.84	meters to point 29;
8	thence	S 73° 00' E	242.85	meters to point 30;
9	thence	S 24° 59' W	1305.18	meters to point 31;
10	thence	S 83° 05' W	437.77	meters to point 32;
11	thence	S 09° 42' E	416.39	meters to point 33;
12	thence	S 32° 03' E	377.38	meters to point 34;
13	thence	S 02° 04' E	565.66	meters to point 34-A;
14	thence	S 39° 09' W	49.84	meters to point 35;
15	thence	S 39° 09' W	225.54	meters to point 36;
16	thence	S 60° 46' W	157.91	meters to point 37;
17	thence	S 01° 09' W	90.46	meters to point 1;

18 Corners 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 32 are F.R.
19 concrete monuments B.F. 20 by 20/30 by 30 by 100 centimeters;

20 Corners 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 21, 23, 30, 31, 33, and 34 are
21 F.R. concrete monuments E.F. 15 by 15/20 by 20 by 60 centimeters;

22 Corner 15 is M.B.M. No. 18;

23 Corners 35 and 37 are intersection points; and

24 Corners 34-A and 36 are P.L.S, concrete monuments, 15 by 15 by 60
25 centimeters.

26 Lot 2

27 Beginning at point marked "1" on the Bureau of Forestry Map No. N.P. 3-1
28 which is S72° 32'E, 7,144.67 meters from M.B.M. No. 19, Magalang Cadastre No. 95,

29 thence N 39 09' E 225.54 meters to point 2;

1 thence S 01 03' W 252.08 meters to point 3;
2 thence N 60 46' W 157.91 meters to point 1;

3 Corner 1 is a P.L.S. concrete monument, 15 by 15 by 60 centimeters; and
4 Corners 2 and 3 are intersection points;

5 the point of beginning containing a total area of three thousand seven hundred
6 fifteen and 23/100 (3,715.23) hectares, more or less, subject to ground survey and
7 verification to be conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural
8 Resources, through the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority
9 (NAMRIA), within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act.

10 The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall
11 appropriately mark on the ground the technical descriptions provided in this Act with
12 clearly visible markers and shall prepare appropriate maps therefor. Any modification
13 of the coverage of this Act due to such factors as changing ecological situations, new
14 scientific or archeological findings, or discovery of traditional boundaries not
15 previously taken into account shall be made through an act of Congress, after
16 consultation with the affected public and concerned government agencies.

17 **Sec. 4. *Buffer Zone.*** – The DENR Secretary, upon the recommendation of the
18 Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), may designate areas surrounding the
19 Mt. Arayat Protected Landscape as buffer zones for the purpose of providing extra
20 layer of protection where restrictions may be applied: *Provided, That,* in cases
21 where the designated buffer zone would cover private lands, the owners thereof
22 shall be required to design their development with due consideration to the
23 protected area management plan.

24 **Sec. 5. *Management and Institutional Mechanisms.*** – The Mt. Arayat
25 Protected Landscape as a protected area shall be managed in accordance with
26 Republic Act No. 7586, as amended by Republic Act No. 11038, under the
27 supervision of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB). A Protected Area

1 Management Office (PAMO) shall be established and headed by the Protected Area
2 Superintendent (PASu) in conformity with Section 11 of the same law, as amended.

3 **Sec. 6. *Promulgation of Rules and Regulations.*** – The DENR, in consultation
4 with relevant government agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary
5 rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

6 **Sec. 7. *Appropriations.*** – The Secretary of the DENR shall immediately include
7 in the Department's Program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which
8 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

9 **Sec. 8. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared
10 unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall
11 continue to be in full force and effect.

12 **Sec. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
13 regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are
14 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,