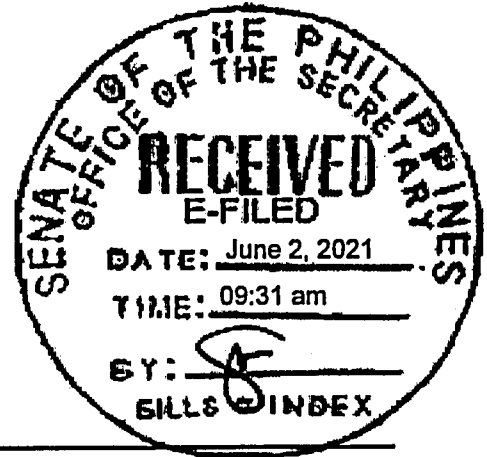


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
S. B. No. 2269



Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

**AN ACT DECLARING "KWEBANG HAPON" LOCATED IN BARANGAY
MANLOCBOC, MUNICIPALITY OF AGUILAR, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN,
AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

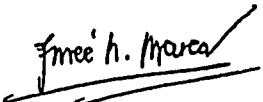
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 16 of Article II of the 1987 Philippine 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."*

The historical "Kwebang Hapon" located in Barangay Manlocboc in the Municipality of Aguilar, Province of Pangasinan is a tunnel/cave where Japanese soldiers hid during the WWII. A foot trail could be used to get there. Its main entrance is in Brgy. Manlocboc, which is approximately seven (7) kilometers from the Poblacion of Aguilar via Brgy. Laoag. The tunnel contains seven (7) swimming pools that are believed to have been developed by the Japanese army. Inside the tunnel/cave, there are numerous historical treasures. According to some folklore, this is where the Japanese kept their treasures.

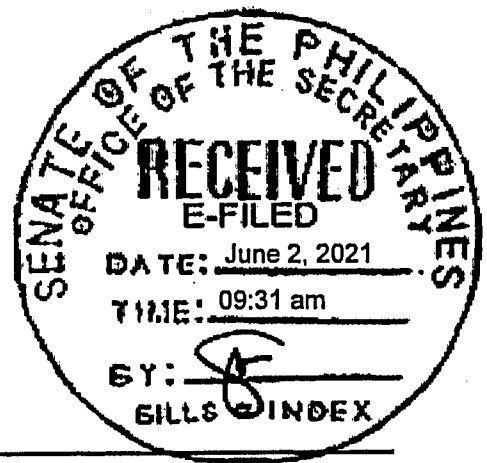
Hence, this bill seeks to declare "Kwebang Hapon" in Brgy. Manlocboc, Municipality of Aguilar, Province of Pangasinan as an eco-tourism destination. Its development will boost eco-tourism in the Municipality of Aguilar and throughout the province. It will be developed with all of the amenities and facilities necessary to realize its full potential as a first-rate eco-tourism destination.

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


IMEE R. MARCOS

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

1 **SECTION 1.** "Kwebang Hapon" located in Barangay Manlocboc, Municipality
2 of Aguilar, Province of Pangasinan, is hereby declared an ecotourism destination. As
3 such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject
4 to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism destinations.

5
6 **SEC. 2.** Within six (6) months after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in
7 coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA)
8 and other concerned agencies of government, shall prepare an ecotourism
9 development plan containing, among others, the construction, installation and
10 maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall enhance
11 tourism in the area: Provided, That said development plan shall ensure the
12 preservation of the natural beauty and historical significance of the area.

13
14 **SEC. 3.** The DOT, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and
15 Highways (DPWH), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
16 and the municipal government of Aguilar, shall take immediate steps to implement the
17 ecotourism development plan for "Kwebang Hapon," and shall incorporate the same
18 in the National Tourism Development Plan.

19
20 **SEC. 4.** The Secretaries of the DOT, DPWH, and DENR shall include in their
21 respective Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which
22 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and shall augment such
23 allocation with internally generated funds of the DOT.
24

1 **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of
2 the DOT shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper
3 implementation of this Act.
4

5 **SEC. 6.** All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees and other issuances
6 inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed and
7 amended accordingly.
8

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

Approved,