

23 FEB 27 P3:41

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )RECEIVED BY: **SENATE**  
S.B. No. 1933

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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**AN ACT**  
**DECLARING BARANGAY KAPATAGAN IN THE CITY OF DIGOS, PROVINCE OF**  
**DAVAO DEL SUR, AN ECOTOURISM SITE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS**  
**THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

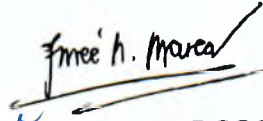
Section 16 of Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that, "*The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.*"

Kapatagan, formerly known as Rizal, is a barangay in Digos City in the province of Davao del Sur. On 19 June 1971, President Ferdinand Marcos signed into law Republic Act No. 6210 which converted the sitio of Kapatagan into a distinct and independent barrio of the then Municipality of Digos. Kapatagan lies on the eastern part of Mt. Apo, and North of Digos with a total land area of 8,333.33 hectares comprising of 54 puroks. Among tourism features in the sites include Mt Apo, Matanao caves, Digos farms and flower gardens, and various eco-adventure sites in Sta Cruz. Kapatagan also beholds a wide variety of flora and fauna which includes Cavendish banana, the Philippine eagle, and Asian Palm Civets which are famous for producing one of the world's most expensive and rare coffee.

In June 2020, Travel Trade Gazette (TTG) Asia published that the Philippine ecotourism is poised to reign supreme as the country transition to the new normal. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, local communities benefit through employment, business opportunities, and social projects. Moreover, ecotourism contributes significantly to national economies.

With a lot of promising attractions in Kapatagan, it is but fitting to not just boast its beauty but to enhance its aesthetic value and harness economic benefits ensuring sustainability of ecotourism for the benefit of future generations.

This bill seeks to encourages positive experience for tourists, minimize the unwanted impact of tourism on the environment, and improve the well-being of local people residing in the area by declaring Barangay Kapatagan in Digos, Davao del Sur as an ecotourism site.

  
**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 Kapatagan in the City of Digos, Province of Davao del  
2 Sur, is hereby declared an ecotourism site. As such, its development shall be prioritized  
3 by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing  
4 the development of ecotourism sites.  
5

6           **SEC. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the city government  
7 of Digos shall, in coordination with the DOT, Department of Environment and Natural  
8 Resources and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development  
9 plan that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of such  
10 appropriate infrastructure and facilities to enhance tourism in the area: *Provided*, That  
11 said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural  
12 beauty and resources of the area: *Provided, further*, That the implementation of the  
13 tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the city government of  
14 Digos.  
15

16           **SEC. 3.** The DOT shall assist the city government of Digos in the implementation  
17 of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity  
18 building. It shall also include Barangay Kapatagan in its national and regional promotion  
19 programs.  
20

1           **SEC. 4.** The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the  
2 annual budget of the city government of Digos. The DOT may augment such allocation  
3 with internally generated funds.  
4

5           **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the city  
6 government of Digos shall, in consultation with the DOT and concerned agencies of the  
7 government, promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.  
8

9           **SEC. 6.** All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, proclamations, presidential  
10 decrees and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are  
11 hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.  
12

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

*Approved,*