

23 MAY 29 P5:23

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

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SENATE
S.B. No. 2260

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

AN ACT
DECLARING ULOT RIVER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PARANAS, PROVINCE
OF SAMAR, AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION

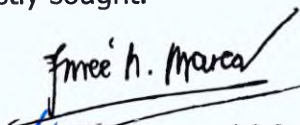
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 9 of Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "*The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.*"

The Ulot River is the longest river in Samar spanning ninety (90) kilometers. The headwater starts from San Jose de Buan in Western Samar, passing downstream through Paranas and finally Can Avid in Eastern Samar. It is one of the most sought tourist destinations in the Province of Samar as it offers the very famous Ulot River Torpedo Extreme Boat Adventure with the offering of the torpedo boat adventure, the Ulot River has gained popularity among tourists.

The bill seeks to declare the Ulot River as an ecotourism site in the Municipality of Paranas, Province of Samar. The declaration will not only result to the development and improvement of the tourist site, but will likewise help with the socio-economic growth in the local communities.

In view of the foregoing, 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.** The Ulot River in the Municipality of Paranas, Province of Samar,
2 is hereby declared an ecotourism destination. Pursuant thereto, its development shall
3 be prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules
4 and regulations governing the development of ecotourism destinations.
5
6

7 **SEC. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the municipal
8 government of Paranas shall, in coordination with the DOT, Department of Environment
9 and Natural Resources and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism
10 development plan that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of
11 such appropriate infrastructure and facilities to enhance tourism in the area: *Provided,*
12 That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the
13 natural beauty and resources of the area: *Provided, further,* That the implementation
14 of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the municipal
15 government of Paranas.
16

17 **SEC. 3.** The DOT shall assist the municipal government of Paranas in the
18 implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in
19 tourism capacity building. It shall also include the Ulot River in its national and regional
20 promotions programs.
21

22 **SEC. 4.** The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be
23 included in the annual budget of the municipal government of Paranas. The DOT may
24 augment such allocation with internally-generated funds.

1
2 **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, municipal
3 government of Paranas shall, in consultation with the DOT and concerned agencies of
4 the government, promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.
5

6 **SEC. 6.** All laws, rules, regulations, proclamations, executive orders, or parts
7 thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed, amended, or revised
8 accordingly.
9

10 **SEC. 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
11 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
12

Approved,