

SENATE  
S.B. 1801

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Villar

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### Explanatory Note

Luneta Park, with all of its 53 hectares, is a symbol not just of Manila but of the country's heritage. It is a living insignia of our people.

Luneta Park is home to the Rizal Monument, which more than a mausoleum of our national hero, Jose Rizal, is known as the "kilometer zero" – a point of origin from which all distances in the Philippines are measured. Aside from the splendidly bronze- and granite-sculpted statue of Rizal made by world renowned Richard Kissling, Luneta Park boasts of an Orchidaerium, the Japanese Park, the public hall featuring the Concerts at the Park, Planetarium and a replica of Philippine archipelago in the middle of a man-made lake. The scenic Manila Bay and the architectural greatness of the Department of Tourism, the old Department of Finance, the Manila Hotel and National Museum complements the once captivating historical vista of the famous landmark.

But Luneta Park has deteriorated. It is no longer the garden of greens and trees as envisioned. It no longer affords the respite needed by citizens. In recent years, there are reports that it has become as the free refuge for vagrants, a haven for cheap flesh trade.

Luneta must be revived again as a modern green park with lush and healthy environment. It is the objective of this bill to bring back the glory of Luneta Park. It is the aim of this legislation to rehabilitate and bring it back to its former grandeur, making Luneta Park comparable to Central Park in New York, Hyde Park in London or Jardin de Tuileries in Paris.

The Filipinos must claim it back. Luneta must be saved.

Early recognition of this legislation is earnestly sought.

  
MANNY VILLAR



SECTION 4. The Council shall submit an initial report with a comprehensive development blueprint within one hundred eighty days after the approval of this Act and every two (2) years thereafter detailing the evaluation of progress, individual projects and other concerns for evaluation and consideration.

SECTION 5. Initially, the amount of one hundred million pesos (Php 100,000,000.00) from the combined earnings of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office is appropriated.

Thereafter, the amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the subsequent years.

SECTION 6. Any law, decree, issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule and regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 7. If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,