

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

8 MAR 12 2011

SENATE

RECEIVED

S.B. NO. 2120

Introduced by Senate President Manny Villar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Hyde Park in London, a royal park and once a hunting ground for Henry VIII is now best known for its famous Speakers' Corner where people speak their minds. Central Park in New York City is the most frequently visited urban park in the United States and its appearance in many movies and television shows has made it famous. A model for urban parks worldwide, the Central Park, has been restored, managed and preserved by the Central Park Conservancy, a private non-profit organization, in partnership with the city government.

The Philippines has Rizal Park which is popularly known as the place where our national hero, Jose Rizal, was executed. His death ushered in the Philippine Republic, Asia's first democracy and his mortal remains as a symbol of Filipino nationhood. Through the years it has become the venue for the celebration of our independence day and the place where the public go on weekends for fresh air, leisurely walks and picnics with family and friends. However, despite its attraction to ordinary folks and tourists because of its historical and political significance, its drawing power has significantly declined due to the deterioration of its facilities, amenities and environs.

In its effort to develop Rizal Park, the government had issued several Executive Orders in the past for its development, to wit: E.O. No. 30, January 14, 1963, created the Executive Committee for the development of Rizal Park, among other parks; E.O. No. 69, February 7, 1964, designated the Committee as the "National Parks Development Committee"; E.O. No. 120-A, January 30, 1987, directed the Committee to be attached to the then Ministry of Tourism and E.O. No. 160, October 13, 1999, reorganized and designated the members of the Committee.


Rizal Park is among several parks in the metropolis being managed and operated by the government through the National Parks Development Committee (NPDC). It is responsible for their beautification, preservation and maintenance. Even with the private sector efforts to redeem its glory days and maximize its potential as tourist destination, all efforts failed to serve the purpose due to various recurring problems, among which are vagrancy, illegal vendors and lack of security personnel

This bill, therefore, seeks to fully revitalize Rizal Park to attain international standards by strengthening the powers and functions of the National Parks Development Committee (NPDC) and appropriating funds for the purpose. The Department of Tourism (DOT) shall direct the NPDC to prioritize the development of Rizal Park and shall declare the Rizal Park

Development Program as part of the department's medium-term infrastructure program.

The private sector, especially business enterprises operating in Metro Manila shall likewise actively participate in the development program, project and activities to be undertaken by the DOT through the NPDC.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is respectfully recommended.



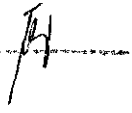
MANNY VILLAR
Senator

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**AN ACT
TO FULLY DEVELOP RIZAL PARK, MANILA INTO A WORLD-CLASS PARK
BY STRENGTHENING THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL
PARKS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (NPDC), APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "**Rizal Park
Development Act of 2008**".

SEC. 2. Statement of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the
State to foster and preserve the country's national and cultural heritage and
provide wholesome recreation and socio-cultural education to the people.
Towards this end, the government shall exert efforts for the development of
Rizal Park in Manila into a world-class park by strengthening the powers and
functions of the National Parks Development Committee (NPDC) and declaring
the Rizal Park Development Program as part of the infrastructure project of the
Department of Tourism (DOT).

SEC. 3. Rizal Park Development Program. - The Department of
Tourism (DOT), through the National Parks Development Committee (NPDC), is
hereby mandated to prioritize the development of Rizal Park and shall declare
the same as part of its infrastructure program.

SEC. 4. Additional Powers and Functions of the NPDC. - In addition
to the powers and functions assigned to it by Executive Order Nos. 69,
February 7, 1987 and 120-A, January 20, 1987, the NPDC shall:

1. Identify and prioritize areas of concern for the development of Rizal Park;
2. Formulate a development Master Plan and submit the same for approval by the Department of Tourism;
3. Establish mechanisms for the sustainable financing in the rehabilitation and maintenance of Rizal Park;
4. Ensure the effective and timely implementation of the development plans, programs and activities of Rizal Park;
5. Initiate action and mobilize the concerned agencies of the government involved in the development plan, including the business enterprises operating in Metro Manila;
6. Formulate and submit a planned regular annual maintenance program of Rizal Park;
7. Mobilize the presentation of quality educational and cultural presentation for all ages;
8. For the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act, the NPDC may call on any head of departments, agencies, bureaus, or offices to provide assistance and cooperation for the implementation of the Rizal Park Development Program;
9. Accept donations, contributions, grants, gifts from various sources, domestic or foreign, for purposes relevant to the development of Rizal Park, upon approval of the President of the Philippines; and
10. Submit quarterly reports to the Department of Tourism (DOT) on the status of the Development Plan.

SEC. 5. Rizal Park Development Master Plan. – The NPDC, shall formulate a Rizal Park Development Master Plan which shall detail the various plans and programs to be implemented with specified target dates of

accomplishment and submit the same for approval by the Department of Tourism.

SEC. 6. Private Sector Participation. – The NPDC, in coordination with the Department of Tourism, shall establish the necessary mechanisms for the participation of the private sector and business enterprises operating within Metro Manila in the programs, projects and activities for the development of Rizal Park.

SEC. 7. Annual Report. – The NPDC shall submit an annual report to Congress on the status of the implementation of the Rizal Park Development Project and the donations, contributions, grants, gifts received from various sources not later than January 31 of every calendar year following the approval of this Act.

SEC. 8. Appropriations. – The amount of Fifty Million Pesos (P50-M) shall be appropriated for the effective implementation of the Master Plan for the development of Rizal Park, and the expenses for its maintenance shall be included and incorporated in the annual general appropriations of the NPDC and the Department of Tourism.

SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The NPDC, in coordination with the Department of Tourism (DOT)), shall issue and promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the efficient and effective implementation of this Act within thirty (30) days upon its approval.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause. – All laws, rules and regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. Separability Clause. – If any part, section or provision of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, no other part, section or provisions thereof shall be affected thereby.

SEC. 12. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,