

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



'13 AUG 28 P2:08

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: *JJE*

Senate Bill No. 1364

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Heralded as the "Virgin Boracay of the Philippines", the Island of Malapascua in the Municipality of Daanbantayan in the Province of Cebu has attracted a significant number of local and foreign tourists. The rich biodiversity and colorful heritage of the Island truly reflects the beauty of a paradise that our country should be proud of.

In recognition of its valuable contribution to tourism and economy both in the local and national level; and in view of maximizing its full potential in these aspects, this measure proposes the declaration of the Island of Malapascua as an Eco-Tourism Destination of the Philippines. It mandates the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Department of Tourism (DOT) to prepare an eco-tourism master plan to ensure the promotion of tourism, the generation of employment and most importantly, the protection and preservation of the environment and ecosystem.

This measure was submitted in the Fifteenth Congress by the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources, Tourism, and Finance. It was however, not passed into law.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator



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AN ACT

DECLARING THE ISLAND OF MALAPASCUA, PROVINCE OF CEBU AS AN
ECO-TOURISM DESTINATION OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. State Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
2 promote sustainable tourism industry:
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4 Towards that end, the country shall rationalize all efforts pertaining to
5 environmental protection and making the industry a major source of livelihood
6 and an avenue for the generation of employment. Henceforth, aggressive
7 measure seeking to restore the country's share in the Asian tourist market shall
8 be consistent with the preservation of the existing ecosystem and natural
9 environment.
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12 **SEC. 2.** Pursuant to the public policy, the Island of Malapascua, Province of
13 Cebu is hereby declared an eco-tourism destination of the Philippines.
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16 **SEC. 3. Creation of Eco-Tourism Task Force.** – Within a year from the approval
17 of this Act, there shall be created an Eco Tourism Task Force whose governing
18 board shall be co-chaired by the Congressman and the Governor of Cebu. The
19 membership of the board shall be composed of representatives from the
20 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of
21 Tourism (DOT), the Department of Health (DOH), the private sector, the Non-
22 Governmental Organizations, and the local government units concerned.
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25 **SEC. 4.** The DENR and DOT shall prepare an eco-tourism master plan and
26 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to be approved by the President
27 of the Philippines upon recommendation of the board, for implementation by the
28 concerned National Government Agencies and/or Local Government Units.
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1 **SEC. 5. Appropriations.** – The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the
2 department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall
3 be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.
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6 **SEC. 6. Separability Clause.** – Any provision of this Act or part thereof that may
7 be declared unconstitutional shall not affect the effectivity of the other provisions.
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10 **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,
11 rules and regulations, and other issuance contrary to or inconsistent with this Act
12 shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.
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15 **SEC. 8. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
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21 *Approved,*