

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



15 FEB 16 AIO :22

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 2650

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

AN ACT
PROCLAIMING THE CHOCOLATE HILLS AS NATIONAL PATRIMONY AND
GEOLOGICAL MONUMENTS, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THEIR
PILLAGE, DEFACEMENT AND DESPOIL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Constitution under Section 16, Article II declares 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."

The Philippine's contribution to the eight wonders of the world, the pride of the Boholanos, the Chocolate Hills in the towns of Carmen, Sagbayan and Batual, are alarmingly facing the possibilities of ruin, defacement and despoil due to the destruction of seven hills in Camanayon, Buenos Aires, La Paz Villafior and La Victoria in Carmen, Bohol and in Poblacion and Sta. Catalina in Sagbayan, Bohol.

This despite the constitutional mandate and the declaration on June 18, 1988 that the Chocolate Hills is a National Geological Monument by virtue of its exceptional characteristics, scientific importance, uniqueness, relevance to the Philippine history and heritage, culture and development, importance in the tourism industry as major tourist spot in the country and high scenic value by the National Committee on Geological Sciences, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Tourism.

This proposed legislation seeks to provide stricter penalties for the pillage, destruction and defacement of the world famous Chocolate Hills to preserve their status as national patrimony and geological monuments.

With the foregoing intentions, the early approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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Senate
Office of the Secretary

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "**Chocolate**
2 **Hills Protection Act of 2015**".
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4

5 **SEC. 2. Definition of Terms.** For purposes of this Act, the following
6 terms are hereby defined as follows:
7

- 8 1. Pillage – means the destruction of any of the Chocolate Hills
9 without permit from the proper authorities concerned and the
10 required Environment Clearance Certificate from the Department
11 of Environment and Natural Resources through quarrying or
12 hauling therefrom of limestones, rocks, soil and road surfacing
13 materials or for backfilling in any construction.
14
- 15 2. Defacement – means to mar the appearance or disfigure of any
16 of the Chocolate Hills through any means or device with permit
17 issued by the proper authorities concerned.
18
- 19 3. Despoil – means to ruin or devastate completely any of the
20 Chocolate Hills with permit duly issued by the proper authorities
21 concerned and the Environmental Clearance Certificate of the
22 Department of Environment and Natural Resources through
23 quarrying or hauling therefrom of limestone, rocks, soil and
24 roads surfacing materials or for backfilling in any construction.
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26

27 **SEC. 3. Declaration of Policy** – It is hereby the declared the policy of the
28 State to protect and preserve the Chocolate Hills found in the 32 barangays in
29 the Municipalities of Carmen, Batuan and Sagbayan, Province of Bohol, to wit:
30 La Paz, Buenos Aires, Tamboan, Alegria, Villaflor, Manti-ao, Calatrava, Monte
31 Video, Nueva Vida Sur, La Victoria, Muntisunting, Nueva Vida Este, Nueva Vida
32 Norte and Buenavista in the Municipality of Carmen, Province of Bohol; Sta.
33 Cruz, Sagbayan Sur, Katipunan, Ubojan, Canmaya Diot, Libertad Sur, San

1 Vicente Sur, Libertad Norte, Camano, Sta. Catalina, Canmaya Centro,
2 Kagawasan, Poblacion and San Agustin in the Municipality of Sagbayan,
3 Province of Bohol.
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6 **SEC. 4. National Patrimony and Geological Monument** – The
7 aforesaid Chocolate Hills are hereby declared as National Patrimony and
8 Geological Monuments for which quarrying or hauling of limestones, rocks, soil
9 and road materials for whatever purpose is hereby banned and prohibited.
10

11
12 **SEC. 5. Penalties.** (a) All persons, whether natural or judicial, who
13 violates this Act which causes the pillage of any Chocolate Hills shall, upon
14 conviction, be punished with an imprisonment of eight (8) years, four (4) months
15 and one (1) day to twelve (12) years and a fine of P85,000.00 to P120,000.00;
16 and;
17

18 (b) All persons, whether natural or judicial who will violate this Act which
19 causes the destruction of any Chocolate Hills shall, upon conviction, be punished
20 with an imprisonment of eight (8) years, four (4) months, and twelve (12) years
21 and a fine of P85,000.00 to P120,000.00 and;
22

23 (c) All persons, whether natural or judicial, who will violate this Act which
24 causes the defacement of Chocolate Hills shall, upon conviction, be punished
25 with an imprisonment of six (6) years and one (1) day to eight (8) years and four
26 (4) months and a fine of P60,000 to P84,000.
27

28 For purposes of this Section, the President, the Chairman of the Board,
29 the General Manager and Project Manager, in case of corporation, and the
30 proprietor and manager, in case of sole proprietorship, shall be held responsible
31 for the violation committed by judicial persons.
32

33 In any of the offense herein-above committed, the Court may order the
34 offender to restore the Chocolate Hills thus plundered, destroyed or defaced:
35 Provided, however, That in the event the offender or offenders in the commission
36 of any of the offenses of the Court shall impose the accessory penalty of
37 perpetual disqualification to hold public office.
38

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40 **SEC. 6. Separability Clause.** If any part or section of this Act is declared
41 unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the other parts or sections of
42 this Act.
43

44 **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.** All laws, presidential decrees, executive
45 orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act
46 shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.
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49 **SEC. 8. Effectivity Clause.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
50 after its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
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Approved,