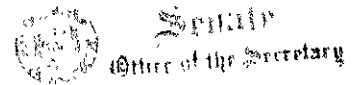


16<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



15 MAY 26 P2:39

SENATE  
Senate Bill No. 2786

RECEIVED BY: f

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Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

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**AN ACT DECLARING ROXAS BOULEVARD IN METRO MANILA AS A TOURISM ZONE, SETTING ASIDE CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN THEREIN AS A NATIONAL PARK, AND AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS AS INITIAL AMOUNT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SAID PARK**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

What we know today as Roxas Boulevard used to be called Cavite Boulevard, which was part of American Architect and urban designer Daniel Burnham's plan for beautifying the city of Manila. He visited the Philippines in 1905, which was the height of the City Beautiful movement, a trend in the early 1900s in North America for making cities beautiful along scientific lines. Burnham also had leading roles in the development of Chicago and Washington, D.C. in the United States.

The boulevard was subsequently renamed Dewey Boulevard to honor the American Admiral George Dewey, under whose command the Spanish navy was defeated in the Battle of Manila Bay in 1898. The boulevard was again renamed as *Heiwa* Boulevard in 1941 during Japanese Home Rule, and finally renamed Roxas Boulevard in the 1960s to honor President Manuel Roxas, our fifth Philippine president.

Roxas Boulevard has welcomed hundreds of presidents, heads of state, prime ministers, kings and queens, and other dignitaries during official visits to the Philippines. The boulevard has been an integral part of the nation's history and it continues to play an important role in the country's development. As a major roadway from all NAIA terminals, the boulevard serves as the nearest tourist link to Philippine tourism amenities such as hotels, restaurants, commercial establishments, embassies, government offices, museums, historical sites and markers, and National Parks.

Currently, the responsibilities for Roxas Boulevard are divided among various government agencies and LGUs, resulting in a lack of standardization over the improvements and infrastructure, as well as challenges in the implementation of projects concerning the boulevard.

The passage of this bill would see the redevelopment of the 7.6 kilometer stretch of Roxas Boulevard as a National Park, to rejuvenate the boulevard and improve the space for the benefit of the general public. This bill also seeks to declare this park as a tourism zone to capitalize on the various historical and cultural assets in the area, as well as one of the country's most spectacular sunsets. Under this bill, the Roxas Boulevard National Park and tourism zone would be under the overall supervision of the Department of Tourism, through its attached agency, the National Park Development Committee, to be renamed the Public Parks Development Authority.

Republic Act 9594, or The Tourism Act of 2009, provides that it is the policy of the State to declare tourism as an indispensable element of national economy and an industry of national interest and importance. Tourism must be harnessed as an engine of socio-economic growth and cultural affirmation to generate investment, foreign exchange and employment, and to continue to mold an enhanced sense of national pride for all Filipinos. Under the supervision of one national agency – in close coordination with the relevant local government units and appropriate government agencies – the Roxas Boulevard National Park shall be a single, unified tourism development, one which will better contribute to the nation's economy and further the policy of the State.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.




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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as ***“The Roxas Boulevard***  
2 ***National Park and Tourism Zone Act of 2015.”***

3  
4 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
5 promote sustainable ecotourism industry to attract local and foreign tourists.  
6

7 **Section 3. Creation of Roxas Boulevard National Park and declaring it as a**  
8 **tourism zone.** The Roxas Boulevard, including two-lane service road, its sidewalks  
9 and the Manila Baywalk is hereby declared as the Roxas Boulevard Park. The  
10 Roxas Boulevard is more particularly described as the eight-lane major arterial  
11 national road with a two-lane service road designated as Radial Road 1 that  
12 connects the City of Manila with Pasay City and Parañaque City. The road runs  
13 north-south direction from Rizal Park in manila and ends in Parañaque city, at the  
14 intersection of Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Road. While Manila  
15 Baywalk is a two-kilometer promenade in the City of Manila that stretches between  
16 the United States of America Embassy and the Cultural Center of the Philippines.  
17

18 The Roxas Boulevard Park is also hereby declared as a tourism zone and shall be  
19 accorded priority development program by the Department of Tourism.  
20

21 **Section 4. Functions and Powers of the National Parks Development**  
22 **Committee over the Roxas Boulevard Park.** The Roxas Boulevard National Park  
23 is hereby placed under the administrative jurisdiction of the Department of Tourism  
24 (DOT), through the National Parks Development Committee (NPDC), in consultation  
25 and coordination with the local government units concerned and other appropriate

1 national agencies and offices, which shall implement a program for the proper  
2 planning, development, maintenance, protection, and sustainability of the said park.

3  
4 The NPDC shall have the following functions and powers over, among others:

- 5  
6 i. The prime mover of plan preparation and implementation for the Roxas  
7 Boulevard Park;  
8 ii. The clearing house for projects to be undertaken at the Roxas  
9 Boulevard Park;  
10 iii. To facilitate the hiring of the appropriate number of personnel with the  
11 proper training and expertise, who shall be assigned to the Park;  
12 iv. To undertake by itself or through another government agency, the  
13 necessary construction, landscaping, lighting, and such other  
14 improvements necessary for the development of the park;  
15 v. To enter into contracts as well as purchase the necessary tools needed  
16 for the maintenance and sustainability of the Roxas Boulevard Park;  
17 and  
18 vi. To perform all other acts necessary, convenient, and expedient to carry  
19 out the mandate provided herein.  
20

21 **Section 5. Inter-Agency Technical Working Group.** An Inter-Agency Technical  
22 Working Group (IA TWG) shall be organized to render assistance to NPDC in terms  
23 of regulating, controlling, and monitoring the over-all development of Roxas  
24 Boulevard Park, geared toward promotion of economic growth, tourism, peace and  
25 order, traffic, and environment protection.  
26

27 **Section 6. Coordination with Other Government Offices and Private**  
28 **Establishments.** The NPDC may call on departments, bureaus, offices, agencies or  
29 instrumentalities of the Government, private establishments, institutions, and  
30 commercial establishments to encourage their involvement in the implementation  
31 and monitoring projects in Roxas Boulevard Park. All departments, bureaus, offices,  
32 agencies or instrumentalities of the government are enjoined to extend such  
33 assistance and cooperation as the NPDC or the DOT may need in the execution of  
34 its duties and responsibilities,  
35

36 **Section 7. Board of Trustees.** All decisions relative to the Roxas Boulevard Park  
37 shall be decided by the governing Board of the National Parks Development  
38 Committee, unless otherwise properly delegated to the Executive Director of the  
39 National Parks Development Committee.  
40

41 The Mayors of the Cities of Manila, Pasay and Parañaque shall be appointed as ex-  
42 officio members of the Board whenever matters regarding the Roxas Boulevard  
43 Park are discussed.  
44

45 **Section 8. Tourism Development Plan of the Roxas Boulevard.** The Secretary  
46 of the Department of Tourism shall take such steps as may be necessary for the  
47 immediate implementation of this Act. In view of this, Secretary of Tourism shall,

1 within ninety (90) days from effectivity of this law, ensure that there will be Tourism  
2 Development and Master Plan for the Roxas Boulevard Park which shall be  
3 consistent with the National Tourism Development Plan and Republic Act 9593 or  
4 the "Tourism Act of 2009".

5  
6 The DOT and the NPDC and other concerned agencies of the government, shall  
7 delineate well defined geographic areas with the the tourism zone and coordinate the  
8 integrated development of these areas for the optimum use of natural assets and  
9 attractions, as well as existing infrastructure facilities; Provided, That said  
10 development shall ensure the preservation and historic significance of tourist  
11 attractions, as well as the preservation of natural resources.

12  
13 **Section 9. Appropriations.** The Secretary of Tourism shall immediately include in  
14 the DOT's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall include  
15 the annual General Appropriations Act and/or internally generated funds of the  
16 Department. To ensure that there will be initial funding for the Roxas Boulevard  
17 Park, The Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) shall  
18 allocate Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000.00) for the immediate clearing operations  
19 and necessary repairs in the park.

20  
21 **Section 10. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Act or this application of  
22 such provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid or unconstitutional,  
23 the remaining provisions, which are not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

24  
25 **Section 11. Repealing Clause.** All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders,  
26 presidential decrees, or any other issuances or part thereof, contrary to or  
27 inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or  
28 modified accordingly.

29  
30 **Section 12. Effectivity.** Those Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
31 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*