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SENATE
Senate Bill No. 2787

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

**AN ACT TO REORGANIZE THE NATIONAL PARKS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TO THE PUBLIC PARKS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Public parks and open spaces improve public health by providing areas for sports and recreation, as well as respite from an increasingly urbanized lifestyle. Parks also strengthen local communities, providing a democratizing space for Filipinos from all walks of life. Moreover, parks with historical, cultural or scientific significance provide tourism opportunities, thus boosting the economy.

In light of these benefits, it is envisioned that there be a single, dedicated agency to plan, develop, maintain and operate public parks throughout the country.

The Executive Committee for the development of the Quezon Memorial Circle, Luneta, and other National Parks in the country was established through Executive Order 30 in 1963. E.O. 69 subsequently renamed this committee to the "National Parks Development Committee", or NPDC. In 1987, the Committee was attached to the then Ministry, now Department, of Tourism by virtue of E.O. 120-A. E.O. 160 reorganized NPDC and designated its members in 1999, while the Tourism Act of 2009 reiterated that NPDC remains as an attached agency of the Department of Tourism.

Currently, the NPDC is in charge of Rizal Park and Paco Park in the City of Manila. This bill seeks to reorganize the NPDC, renaming it to the Public Parks Development Authority, and define its mandate and jurisdiction, ensuring a coordinated and standardized approach to planning, development, operation, maintenance and promotion of public parks throughout the country.

As our nation develops and areas urbanize, it is increasingly important to ensure that green and open spaces remain for the benefit of the public, and that parks with historical, cultural or scientific significance are preserved, as public parks will continue to shape the quality of life of Filipino communities for generations to come.

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


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

- 1 **Section 1. Change of Name.** The National Parks Development Committee (NPDC) is
2 hereby renamed the Public Parks Development Authority, hereinafter
3 referred to as Authority.
4
- 5 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.**
6 a. The State upholds the fundamental right of the people to a balanced and
7 healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.
8 b. The State recognizes and affirms the significant role of parks in the holistic
9 and balanced development of the nation and of its people and shall promote
10 its care and development.
11 c. The State shall maintain and preserve its public parks in order to provide for
12 a common place for individual and community enjoyment, health and
13 relaxation, as well as to have a venue for national and local gatherings and
14 celebrations.
15 d. The State shall develop, maintain, and allocate funds for its public parks for
16 the creation and promotion of tourism programs and initiatives, and for
17 environmental awareness, preservation and conservation.
18 e. The State affirms that parks are beyond the commerce of men, except parks
19 or areas declared as Tourism Enterprise Zones (TEZs) and Parks under the
20 management of the Public Parks Development Authority (PPDA); Provided
21 that, Any commerce to be introduced shall in no way be detrimental to the
22 history, heritage, arts and culture, and natural environment of these parks;
23 f. The State affirms that the value gained in maintaining public parks may be
24 assessed through the collective satisfaction of the people that comes from
25 having well-maintained, safe and beautiful parks.
26 g. The State recognizes the involvement of local communities and of the
27 different sectors of society as essential for the successful maintenance and
28 development of public parks.
29 h. To achieve these objectives, the State shall vest in a single government
30 agency the primary function of planning, developing, operating and maintain
31 public parks in the country.

1
2 **Section 3. Jurisdiction.** The Authority shall be the primary government agency vested
3 with the responsibility to plan, develop, supervise, operate and maintain all
4 public parks, as defined herein, throughout the country, as well as to
5 construct the necessary facilities in the said public parks, in consultation and
6 coordination with concerned local government units and other appropriate
7 national agencies and offices. The Authority shall also have responsibility
8 over other public parks that may be assigned by the President or the
9 Congress of the Republic of the Philippines, either by law or a presidential
10 proclamation or executive order.
11

12 **Section 4. Public Parks.** For purposes of this Act, a Public Park is defined as a parcel
13 of land or body of water, or a combination thereof, as identified by the
14 Authority and proclaimed as such, in accordance with this Act and the criteria
15 provided in the Implementing Rules and Regulations to be adopted by the
16 Authority, set aside for the recreation or relaxation of people and the
17 promotion of public awareness of some historical, artistic, cultural or scientific
18 matter; Provided that, parks which are under the care and jurisdiction of other
19 government agencies, are excluded in this definition, unless otherwise
20 proclaimed, either by law or a presidential proclamation or executive order.
21

22 Such Public Parks include, but are not limited to, Rizal Park, Paco Park and
23 those parks which are of historical significance to the country, parks of cultural
24 heritage, or parks with national monuments.
25

26 **Section 5. Powers and Functions.** Subject to existing laws, rules and regulations, the
27 Authority shall have the following powers and functions:
28

- 29 a. To formulate and enforce policies, plans, programs, and projects to carry out
30 the mandate of the Authority;
- 31 b. To acquire, construct, lease, own, or possess personal and real property
32 necessary in carrying out its mandate, powers, and functions under this Act;
- 33 c. To regulate the use of the areas of the Public Parks, and charge and collect
34 reasonable fees to defray the cost of maintenance, repairs, and operation of
35 the Public Parks;
- 36 d. To exercise the power of eminent domain relative to the establishment of
37 new public park sites;
- 38 e. To lease, mortgage, sell, alienate, or otherwise encumber or dispose its
39 properties, when necessary in the performance of its duties and functions,
40 provided that properties, which form part of the Public Parks, may not be
41 mortgaged, sold alienated, or otherwise encumbered or disposed of unless
42 authorized by a law specifically allowing the same;
- 43 f. To ensure the safety and security of park-goers and the maintenance of
44 peace and order within the Public Parks;
- 45 g. To engage the services of personnel to maintain peace and order in the
46 Public Parks, as well as in the infrastructure, office premises, and properties
47 of the Authority;
- 48 h. To enlist and secure the aid and assistance of other relevant government
49 agencies, offices or officials, as well as the concerned local government
50 units, in promoting and developing the Public Parks as mandated in this Act;

- 1 i. To develop and implement recreational, socio-cultural, and educational
- 2 programs and activities within the Public Parks that will contribute to the
- 3 enrichment of national identity and heritage;
- 4 j. To solicit, negotiate with, and receive legacies, gifts, donations, grants,
- 5 endowments, contributions, or other transfers of ownership or possession of
- 6 properties in favor of the Authority, in accordance with pertinent accounting
- 7 and auditing laws, rules and regulations;
- 8 k. To contract loans, credits and other indebtedness, or issue bonds, when
- 9 necessary for the proper accomplishment of the purposes of this Act;
- 10 l. To establish, promote, and sponsor training programs for its professional and
- 11 technical personnel;
- 12 m. To operate Tourism Enterprise Zones, when appropriate, over areas under
- 13 the Authority's jurisdiction in accordance with Republic Act No. 9593,
- 14 Provided that, Any commerce and enterprise to be introduced shall in no way
- 15 be detrimental to the history, heritage, arts and culture and natural
- 16 environment of these parks; and
- 17 n. To perform all other acts necessary, convenient, and expedient to carry out
- 18 the mandate, powers, and functions of the Authority provided herein.
- 19

20 **Section 6. Board of Trustees.** The Authority shall be governed by the Board of
 21 Trustees composed of the following:

- 22
- 23 i. Chairperson - The secretary of Tourism
- 24 ii. Vice-Chairperson - The Executive Director of Public Parks Development
- 25 Authority;
- 26 iii. Members - The Secretary of Public Works and Highways;
- 27 The Chairman of the Metro Manila Development
- 28 Authority;
- 29 The Chief Operating Officer of Tourism Infrastructure
- 30 and Enterprise Zone Authority;
- 31 The Administrator of Intramuros Administration.
- 32

33 The Board may create committees and subcommittees for the
 34 accomplishment of particular tasks or projects. It may allocate and
 35 appropriate funds to the committees and subcommittees necessary for the
 36 accomplishment of the tasks or projects assigned.

37

38 **Section 7. Meetings of the Board.** The Board shall meet as often as necessary which
 39 shall not be less than once a month.

40

41 The Secretary of Tourism, as chairperson, shall preside in all the meetings of
 42 the Board.

43

44 The Board shall appoint a corporate Secretary who shall be responsible for
 45 the efficient planning and organization of the meetings of the Board.

46

47 **Section 8. Powers and Duties of the Executive Director.** The Executive Director of
 48 the Authority shall have the following powers and duties:

49

- 1 a. To execute and administer the policies, rules and regulations and measures
- 2 adopted by the Board of Trustees;
- 3 b. To recommend to the Board policies and standards for the efficient, effective,
- 4 and economical operation of the Authority;
- 5 c. To act as Chief Executive Officer and directly manage and supervise the day
- 6 to day operations and internal administration of the Public Parks Development
- 7 Authority, and sign all agreements and contracts entered into for and in its
- 8 behalf;
- 9 d. To prepare the agenda for the meetings of, and to submit for the
- 10 consideration of the Board of Trustees all policies and measures which the
- 11 Executive Director believes to be necessary to carry out its purpose;
- 12 e. To prepare and submit an annual budget and necessary supplemental
- 13 budgets for the consideration of the Board of Trustees;
- 14 f. To appoint, discipline and remove, and define the duties of the Authority's
- 15 personnel, subject to existing Civil Service Rules and Regulations;
- 16 g. To exercise and perform such other powers and duties as may be vested in
- 17 the Executive Director or assigned by the Board of Trustees.
- 18

19 **Section 9. Transfer of Administration of Rizal Park, Paco Park and Other**
20 **Public Parks.** The administration of the affairs of Rizal Park, Paco Park
21 and other public parks under the NPDC organized under Executive Orders
22 No. 30 series of 1963; No. 69 series of 1964; NO. 120-A series of 1987
23 and No. 160 series of 1999, shall now be under the administration of the
24 Authority.
25

26 **Section 10. Transfer of Rights and Liabilities.** The Authority shall, by virtue of this
27 Act, be subrogated to all rights and assume all liabilities of the NPDC, in
28 accordance with pertinent laws, rules and regulations.
29

30 **Section 11. Funding and Budget Allocation.** Funds needed to carry out the
31 provisions of this Act shall be taken from a) the available funds of the
32 National Parks Development Committee b) Additional Budget Allocation in
33 the amount of 150M pesos for initial funding, and every year thereafter.
34

35 **Section 12. Separability Clause.** If any part or provision of this Order is held invalid
36 or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions not affected thereby shall
37 remain valid and effective.
38

39 **Section 13. Repealing Clause.** All laws, executive orders, proclamations, rules,
40 regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are
41 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.
42

43 **Section 14. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
44 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two national newspapers of
45 general circulation.
46

47 Approved,