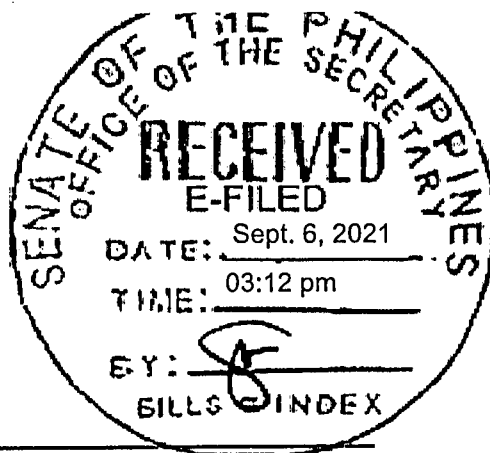


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



SENATE
S.B. No. 2382

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

AN ACT DECLARING THE CITY OF SAN PABLO, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "CITY OF SEVEN LAKES", AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 16 of Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides 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."*

On 07 May 1940, the Charter Bill known as the City Charter of San Pablo or Commonwealth Act No. 520, sponsored by Assemblyman Tomas D. Dizon, was approved by president Manuel L. Quezon. According to the 2020 Population Census of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), it has a population of 285,348 people.

The city, which is approximately only 70 km away from Metro Manila, is known as a tourist destination because of its Seven Crater Lakes, namely: Bunot Lake, Calibato Lake, Mohicap Lake, Palakpakin Lake, Pandin Lake, Sampaloc Lake and Yambo Lake. Its catchment area is Mt. San Cristobal with an area of 27.5 square kilometers.

Apart from tourism, the lakes also provide agri-fisheries resources to the agriculture sector and provide livelihood to the locals. According to the Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources (CENR), the city government has been addressing since 1992 the entry of invasive species and pollution in the seven lakes.

Considering the promising attraction that the City of Seven Lakes has to offer, it is high time to recognize its beauty and aesthetic value. Moreover, ecotourism contributes significantly to national economies and local communities through employment, business opportunities, and social projects.

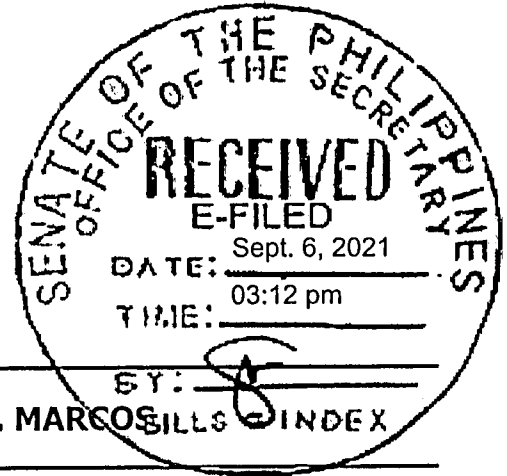
This bill seeks to declare the City of San Pablo in the province of Laguna as an ecotourism destination, to be known as the "City of Seven Lakes" to encourage positive experience for tourists, minimize the unwanted impact of tourism on the environment, and improve the well-being of local people residing in the area.

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


IMEE R. MARCOS

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The City of San Pablo, Province of Laguna, is hereby declared an
2 ecotourism destination and shall be known as the "City of Seven Lakes".

3 **SEC. 2.** The Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with the Tourism
4 Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), the provincial government of
5 Laguna, the city government of San Pablo and other concerned agencies of the
6 government, shall prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the
7 construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and
8 infrastructure that shall enhance tourism, improve accessibility and ensure the safety
9 of the people in the area.

10 **SEC. 3.** The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the tourism
11 development plan and incorporate the same in its tourism development program for
12 the ensuing calendar year.

13 **SEC. 4.** The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the
14 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual
15 General Appropriations Act, and shall augment such allocation with internally
16 generated funds of the Department.

17 **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT shall
18 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this
19 Act.

20 **SEC. 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
21 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,