

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Diliman, Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2001



Introduced by **HON. MAURICIO G. DOMOGAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Filed in the 10th Congress (HB No. 1765) and in the 12th Congress. (HB No. 3477), this bill is once again filed to declare Burnham Park located in Baguio City as National Park in view of its historical significance and of its rich tourism potential.

Burnham Park was designed and developed in the 1930s by Daniel Burnham, a noted American architect and urban planner known for developing American cities like Chicago. Thirty one point sixty six (31.66) hectares in land area, it features among others, a man-made lagoon, a soccer-field and parade ground, and beautifully landscaped greenery within the entire park. Even before World War II, the park has become and has always been the chief tourism and promenade facility of Baguio City. A great number of travelers and tourists who have had the opportunity of visiting and staying in Baguio City likewise drop by Burnham Park for its lush environs and quiet serenity. In simple terms, if one thinks of Baguio City, one thinks of Burnham Park.

By Presidential Decree No. 1762 dated January 6, 1981 and Proclamation No. 2144 dated December 9, 1981, the Burnham Park reservation was ceded and conveyed to the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA) for tourism development purposes through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed on August 10, 1989 and which transferred the management, maintenance, and administration of the park for a period of five (5) years to the National Parks Development Committee. The MOA ended on August 7, 1989. Subsequently, per E.O. 224 of Pres. Fidel V. Ramos, dated Feb. 10, 1995, Burnham Park's management, administration and maintenance was transferred to the City government of Baguio.

However, almost a decade has passed since 1995 and Baguio City has found out that it can hardly afford to maintain, much less improve the activities and facilities of the Park. Even with the use of proper management procedures, the revenues and collection generated from the operation of the park is too limited and insufficient even for its minimal maintenance requirements. The city needs some help.

Declaring Burnham Park as National Park and appropriating funds for its maintenance, administration, operations, development, improvement of existing facilities, and creation of new tourist-oriented facilities will ensure its proper management development as a world-class tourism and promenade facility befitting the Nation's Summer Capital, a National treasure every Filipino can be proud of to have.

Approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


MAURICIO G. DOMOGAN

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**AN ACT DECLARING BURNHAM PARK AS A NATIONAL PARK,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 SECTION 1. Burnham Park in Baguio City is hereby declared as a
2 National Park worthy of national concern and budgetary assistance for its
3 continued maintenance as a world-class tourism and promenade facility.

4 SECTION 2. The amount of Pesos: Twenty Million (P20 million) is hereby
5 appropriated to carry out the development and upgrading efforts necessary to
6 implement this Act, charged against the annual budget of the Department of
7 Tourism for the Philippine Tourism Authority, and included as an itemized
8 expenditure authorized in the General Appropriations Act.

9 SECTION 3. The Philippine Tourism Authority is hereby directed to turn
10 over to the local government of the City of Baguio, in the latter's capacity as PTA
11 manager of Burnham Park, the annual appropriations set aside in this Act and in
12 accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement entered into between them in
13 November 1997.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon approval.

Approved.