

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2910**

**Introduced by Honorable Ernie D. Clarete**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

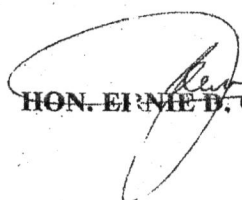
This bill seeks to declare the Baliangao Protected Landscape and Seascape in the Municipality of Baliangao, Province of Misamis Occidental as part of the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS).

The Baliangao Protected Landscape and Seascape, comprised of Barangay Misom, Tugas, Sinian, and Landing, is a vast expanse of wetland area which, in November 2000, was declared a Protected Area by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 418, under the category of protected landscape and seascape. This aims to protect the environment from any distinctive human activity on all "components of the natural environment particularly the effect of increasing population, resource exploitation and industrial advancement," as stated in the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992. However, despite this, our environment steadily deteriorated, as reported by the Conservation International Philippines. The country, out of its total land surface of 300,780 square kilometers, has only about 24,062 sq. kms., of remaining habitat to depend on.

Although the Philippines is ranked seventh of 17 megadiverse countries in the world - these countries hold two thirds of the earth's biological resources —it is also considered now a biodiversity hotspot. This only means the Philippines is an area facing serious threats of species loss' and habitat destruction.

There are 25 identified hotspots in the world and the Philippines is, sadly, leading in degrees of endangerment. A depleted forest reserve will adversely affect the country's over-all development. Preserving the scenery and the wild animals and plants therein will enhance economic stability. Thus, there is a need to declare the Baliangao Protected Landscape and Seascape as part of NIPAS to ensure its sustainable management, not only for our own benefit but for the future generation as well.

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

  
**HON. ERNIE D. CLARETE**

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**AN ACT DECLARING THE BALIANGAO PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALIANGAO, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL, AS PART OF THE "NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM (NIPAS) ."**

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

1           SECTION 1.   The parcel of public domain known as Baliangao Protected Landscape  
2   and Seascape in the Municipality of Baliangao, Province of Misamis Occidental is hereby  
3   declared as part of the "National Integrated Protected Areas Systems" (NIPAS) pursuant to RA  
4   No. 7586.

5           SEC. 2.    The Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau under the Department of  
6   Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall promulgate the necessary rules and  
7   regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

8           SEC. 3.   This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,