

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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3300



Introduced by Honorable Florencio T. Miraflores

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Municipalities of Nabas, Malay and Buruanga in the Province of Aklan as eco-tourism zone.

These three municipalities which comprise the western part of the province of Aklan are bestowed by nature with scenic spots and natural beauty that hold immense tourism potentials, namely:

Nabas

- Tulingon Cave - Located at Barangay Libertad, this cave is believed to be one of the longest caves in the Philippines
- Basang Cave/ Hurom-Hurom Springs - Located at Barangay Laserna, it has two basins with clear, cool water good for swimming

Malay

- Boracay Island – Aklan's major tourism destination for its rare beauty of fine white sand beaches, azure waters, coral reefs and rare shells.

Buruanga

- Ingus-Ingus Hill - An elevated mass of rocks, overlooking the Sulu sea at three sides.
- Buruanga Caves - Five caves (some with ballroom-size chambers) with massive stalactite and stalagmite formations

Straddling these three towns is a mountain range that boasts of an extensive rainforest area. Further to these, the three towns have long coastlines, some portions of which have beaches that are comparable to those found in Phuket, Thailand and Bali, Indonesia.

Despite these scenic spots, however, there is no coherent long-term development plan in place for the three towns that would complement that of the Boracay Island Development Plan.

Because of this lack of a master plan, these municipalities lag behind Boracay Island in terms of development efforts.

There is therefore an urgent need to address the situation that would pave the way for the three municipalities to be declared as an eco-tourism zone to pave the way for an effective

planning, management, and development of the area with the objective of enhancing its tourism potentials and enhancing ecological status.

With the declaration of Nabas, Malay and Buruanga as eco-tourism zone, it can, together with the resort island of Boracay be considered as complementary tourism sites that would contribute to the over all tourism development efforts of the country.

With the tourism industry identified as a major dollar earner, it then follows that efforts should be directed at developing those areas with major potentials.

Approval of this bill is then earnestly sought.


FLORENCIO T. MIRAFLORES

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HOUSE BILL NO. **3300**

INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE FLORENCIO T. MIRAFLORES

AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITIES OF NABAS, MALAY AND BURUANGA
IN THE PROVINCE OF AKLAN AS ECO-TOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS, THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a sustainable tourism industry. Towards this end, the country shall formulate effective strategies to enable the industry to become a major source of livelihood and employment as well rationalize all efforts relative to environmental protection. All efforts then in pursuing an increased share of the global tourism market must be consistent with the concerns relative to the ecosystem.

SEC. 2. Pursuant to this public policy, the Municipalities of Nabas, Malay and Buruanga are hereby declared as eco-tourism zones. As such, it shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of eco-tourism zones.

SEC. 3. Within a year from the approval of this act the Department of Tourism, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the local government units, and with other concerned agencies of the government, shall prepare an eco-tourism master plan, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations, review and strengthen existing local structural framework to ensure the preservation of the natural resources of the area.

SEC. 4. The Department of Tourism shall take immediate steps to implement said development plan and shall incorporate the same in its overall development program for the ensuing calendar year.

SEC. 5. The Department of Tourism shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be taken from the appropriation of the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 7. All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations, and other issuance contrary to or inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,