

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



13th CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3674

Introduced by **Honorable Clavel Asas-Martinez**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to exclude the Island of Bantayan which comprises of the municipalities of Bantayan, Sta. Fe and Madredijos located at Visayas Sea in the Province of Cebu among the declared wilderness area.

Proclamation No. 2151, issued by then President Ferdinand E. Marcos on December 29, 1981, declares the whole of Bantayan Island in the Province of Cebu among the wilderness areas in the country wherein no entry, sale, settlement, exploitation of whatever nature or form of disposition is allowed. Even long before the issuance of proclamation, a growing settlement pattern already existed in the place and over the years the population in the island has increased rapidly and corresponding economic activities continue to accelerate, making the island one of today's progressive areas in the province of Cebu. It is likewise to be emphasized that the Bantayan Island is economically better-off than any Island of the country which are not considered as wilderness areas. One of its municipalities, the Bantayan Municipality is a Third (3rd) class municipality.

The Municipality of Bantayan has submitted to the Province Land Use Committee, for review and approval its Comprehensive Land Use and Development Plan for the years 1997-2006, pursuant to the provision of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991. The Comprehensive Land Use and Development Plan specifies the manner in which lands in the municipality shall be appropriately used to enhance further development of its commerce and trade and bring about economic growth for the whole area. The Provincial Land Use Committee of the Province of Cebu desires

to expedite the evaluation review and approval of the document submitted considering the prescribed period provided under the law for the entire process, but Proclamation No. 2151 hinders further action on the plan and impedes the growth and development of the Island of Bantayan.

In view of the foregoing, approval of the Bill is earnestly urged.



CLAVEL ASAS-MARTINEZ

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AN ACT
EXCLUDING THE ISLAND OF BANTAYAN WHICH COMPRISES
OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BANTAYAN, STA. FE AND
MADREDIJOS LOCATED AT VISAYAS SEA AND IN THE
PROVINCE OF CEBU FROM AMONG THE DECLARED
WILDERNESS AREAS.

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

Section 1. The Island of Bantayan which comprises the municipalities of Bantayan, Sta. Fe and Madredijos located at Visayas Sea in the Province of Cebu is hereby excluded from the Islands and/or parts of the country declared as wilderness areas wherein no entry, sale, settlement, exploitation of whatever nature or form of disposition is allowed.

Section 2. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 3. All laws, decrees, orders, proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,