

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

16th CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4208



Introduced by Representative REGINA ONGSIAKO REYES
Lone District, Marinduque

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Of the more than 7,000 islands that comprise the whole Philippine archipelago, the heart-shaped island-province of Marinduque is believed to be situated in its geographical center. Located in Region 4B, it is surrounded by crystal blue waters and enclosed by spectacular beaches. Its natural beauty is complimented by its distinct and special culture and history. Marinduque is a fusion of all of these, and truly it is the "heart" of the Philippines.

The island gained popularity among tourists, local and foreign, for its annual Moriones Festival, a unique Lenten tradition featuring masked men, called "morions", dressed in colorful costumes to the likeness of Roman soldiers. This week-long celebration starts on Holy Monday and culminates on Easter Sunday when the story of Longinus is reenacted in pantomime.

More than the renowned Moriones Festival, Marinduque also takes pride in its natural beaches and seascapes, unexplored caves, hot springs, waterfalls, and spectacular underwater flora and fauna. In addition, the island-province has stood witness to some of the most important periods of our history. All these add up to the wonder that is Marinduque, an island awaiting rediscovery.

One of these, is the Shrine of the Battle of Pulang Lupa in the Municipality of Torrijos. It is interesting to note that in the Filipino-American war, two battles won by the Filipinos occurred in the island-province of Marinduque, the Battle of Pulang Lupa being one of these.

On September 13, 1900, after two days of combat, Filipinos, led by Colonel Maximo Abad, won over the Americans in the mountains of Torrijos. He was the Chief of the Revolutionary Force of Marinduque and he commanded the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Guerilla units in the province. It has been called Pulang Lupa to represent the bloodshed that took place in the said historic site. The battle is recorded in documents reposed in the archives of the United States of America.

The historic battle exemplified the bravery and valor of Filipinos and made headlines in the United States of America. Captain Devereux Shields' personal report depicted the intense encounter between Filipinos and Americans, where four American soldiers were killed, and six were wounded.

In commemoration of the bloody battle between the two forces more than a century ago, an obelisk of marble tiles stands at the peak of the "Pulang Lupa" Mountain. A mural can be found in the mountainside which is made up of 60 concrete blocks joined together to show the bloody battle. This place was then officially declared to be a historical landmark on September 2, 1991.

Camping in the Shrine of the Battle of Pulang Lupa is not new. Many campers enjoyed the great view from the top, the lush nature, the stillness, the cool breeze, the ocean surrounding the mountain that sparkles like stars, the flock of birds flying in the blue skies that give a very relaxing and rejuvenating feeling. Our history would be enriched if emphasis is given to this site, and the awareness of its significance to our heritage is cultivated for future generations of Filipinos.


REGINA ONGSIAKO REYES

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE SHRINE OF THE BATTLE OF PULANG LUPA AND ITS
PREMISES LOCATED AT BARANGAY PULANG LUPA, TORRIJOS,
MARINDUQUE, AS A HISTORICAL PARK AND ECOTOURISM SITE
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. The Shrine of the Battle of Pulang Lupa and its premises located at Barangay Pulang Lupa, Torrijos, Marinduque is hereby declared as historical park and ecotourism site. As such, it shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism (hereinafter referred to as "DOT") and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourist spots.

Sec. 2. The DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and other concerned agencies of the government, shall, within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, prepare the development plan involving the construction, installation and/or maintenance of such appropriate facilities which shall enhance tourism in the

area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation of the natural beauty and historical significance thereof.

Sec. 3. The Department of Tourism (DOT) shall take immediate steps to implement the said development plan and incorporate the same in the Department's overall tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year.

Sec. 4. The DOT shall likewise promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

Sec. 5. The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations under the Annual General Appropriations Act and/or against the internally generated funds of the DOT.

Sec. 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED.