



Sixteenth Congress  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5056**

**Introduced by Honorable Herminia B. Roman**

### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to declare Barangay Tala in the Municipality of Orani, Province of Bataan as eco-tourism zone.

It is the policy of the State to accord priority status to sustainable, vibrant and profitable tourism development as one of the engines of socio-economic growth and cultural affirmation to generate investment, foreign exchange and employment. Environmentally sound and community participatory tourism programs have spurred socio and economic development in the tourism industry. In today's growth trend, the problem of unemployment remains unresolved. Tourism-related sector is becoming an increasingly important source of economic prosperity by way of creating job opportunities. The total number of arrivals of tourists and sightseers to the Philippines has greatly contributed to the improved economy and to our country's status as a rising tourist destination.

Barangay Tala, a part of the Bataan Natural Park, is one of the most sought-after tourist destinations in Bataan for its serene and natural beauty and unique terrain. It is famous for its cool climate comparable to Baguio and at present undergoing development of various resorts. The declaration of Barangay Tala as local eco-tourism zone will definitely help enhance its continued tourism viability. Further, Barangay Tala could be easily developed into a first-class eco-tourism zone if it is equipped with amenities and facilities complementing its full potential as a tourism venue.

Lack of sufficient lodging facilities and round the clock public transportation hinder the socioeconomic and environmental development of the

area. Developing this barangay into an eco-tourism zone will mold and enhance a sense of history and pride for all residents of Tala and neighboring communities, thereby promoting the Bataan National Park as a tourist destination. Further, it will provide employment opportunities to local residents and with the influx of tourists, the eco-tourism zone will be a significant source of business opportunities.

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

  
**HERMINIA B. ROMAN**



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

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1 **AN ACT**  
2 **DECLARING BARANGAY TALA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ORANI,**  
3 **PROVINCE OF BATAAN AS ECO-TOURISM ZONE AND**  
4 **APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

5  
6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*  
7 *Congress assembled:*  
8

9 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as “*Tala Eco-Tourism*  
10 *Zone Act.*”

11 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State  
12 to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible,  
13 participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable and equitable for local  
14 communities.

15 Towards this end, Barangay Tala in Orani, Bataan shall be accorded priority  
16 development by the Department of Tourism (DOT) as eco-tourism zone and shall  
17 be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourism  
18 zones.

1           SEC. 3. *Barangay Tala Eco-Tourism Zone.* – Barangay Tala in Orani,  
2   Bataan is hereby declared as eco-tourism zone. The Tourism Development Plan of  
3   the Municipality of Orani shall be incorporated in the overall National Tourism  
4   Development Plan of the DOT pursuant to Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise  
5   known as the “*The Tourism Act of 2009*,” and shall be jointly implemented with  
6   the Municipality of Orani, Bataan, local Protected Area Management Board  
7   (PAMB) and the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA).

8           The DOT, in coordination with the Municipality of Orani, PAMB, and  
9   TIEZA and other government agencies, shall delineate well-defined geographic  
10   areas within Barangay Tala Eco-Tourism Zone and coordinate the integrated  
11   development of the area for the optimum use of natural assets and attractions,  
12   which shall include part of the Bataan National Park, as well as existing  
13   infrastructure and facilities. The development shall ensure the preservation and  
14   historic significance of the identified tourist attraction.

15          SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of Tourism,  
16   in consultation with the Municipality of Orani, PAMB and TIEZA, shall  
17   promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of  
18   this Act.

19          SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of Tourism shall immediately  
20   include in the program of the DOT the implementation of this Act, the funding of

1 which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and internally  
2 generated funds of the DOT.

3 SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations  
4 and other issuances, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are  
5 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

6 SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
7 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

8 Approved,