

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5128



Introduced by **HON. RENE L. RELAMPAGOS**
First District, Bohol

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This legislative proposal seeks to redefine the geographical jurisdiction of the First Public Works District or the Bohol First District Engineering Office (Bohol 1st DEO). The 7.2-magnitude earthquake that hit Bohol province last October 15, 2013, would go down in history as one of the country's most destructive and deadliest catastrophe, claiming the lives of over 200 Boholanos and damaging more than 73,000 structures.

Loon, a second-income class municipality in Bohol with a population of more than 40,000, was among the hardest hit towns in the province. About a third of all casualties occurred in this town, and its heritage sites and century-old churches completely crumbled to the ground including the Church of Our Lady of Light, the beautiful Loon Church.

Said catastrophe, however, left not only a landscape of collapsed structures, but also remarkable ground surface changes, one of which is the increased elevation of land called an "upthrust" along the shorelines of Maribojoc and Loon, Bohol. According to reports by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), a reverse fault mechanism with a NW-SE compressive axis was inferred from seismic wave analyses, thus vertical ground movements associated with the reverse motion must have been involved in the ground surface changes.

Geologists call the Loon phenomenon as uplift-ment or vertical displacement of land in response to the tectonic activity brought by the aftermath of the earthquake. The provincial government now includes these geo-science spots as part of its tourist attractions, turning the damaged sites into places for geological study and for tourism, in order to attract more tourists both here and abroad.

By virtue of its exceptional characteristics, scientific importance, uniqueness, relevance to the Philippine history, importance in the tourism industry as a tourist spot and high scenic value, this bill seeks to declare the upthrust surface of Loon as a National Geological Monument.

Further, with the adoption of a tourism economic zone in the municipality of Loon which is known as the emerging giant of Bohol's eco-cultural tourism industry, the whole of the nation stands to benefit from the recognition of this landmark as one of the country's geological monument, expecting an increase in tourist activity.

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


RENE LOPEZ RELAMPAGOS

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HOUSE BILL NO. 5128

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First District, Bohol

**“AN ACT DECLARING THE UPTHURST IN LOON, BOHOL AS A
NATIONAL GEOLOGICAL MONUMENT, PROVIDING FOR ITS
DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – An Act Declaring Loon Upthrust as a National Geological Monument of the Philippines.

SECTION 2. National Patrimony and Geological Monument. – The upthrust located along the shorelines of Barangays Guiwanon and Punta Cruz in the Municipality of Maribojoc covering 40.35 hectares and in Barangays Song-on, Tontonan, Cuasi, Tangnan, Pig-ot, Basdacu, Lintuan, Napo, Basac and Moalong in the Municipality of Loon covering 478.04 hectares, is hereby declared as a National Geological Monument.

SECTION 3. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and preserve the upthrust in the municipality of Loon, brought about by the 7.2-magnitude earthquake that hit the province of Bohol on October 15, 2013.

SECTION 4. Development Plan. – As a National Geological Monument, the Loon Upthrust shall be accorded priority development, promotion, protection and preservation by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Tourism (DOT). Said agencies, in coordination with the local government unit concerned, shall, within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, prepare a development plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure which shall enhance tourism in the area;

Provided, that the said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and indigenous nature of the area;

The Department of Tourism shall promote the Loon Upthrust in all its national, regional and local promotion programs.

The DOT shall also include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be charged against the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. Prohibited Acts. -

- (a) Any form of destruction or defacement of the Loon Upthrust;
- (b) Hauling of limestone, rock, soil and road materials for whatever purpose;
- (c) Construction, in any form, of any structure in violation or not included in the development plan under Section 4.
- (d) Any similar acts in violation of the law and regulations on upthrust.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of the Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Tourism and the local government of Loon, shall issue the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within 60 days from its enactment into law.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. - if any part or section of this Act is declared unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the other parts or section of this Act.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decree, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with any provision of this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspaper of general circulation or official gazette.

Approved,