

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **5409**



Introduced by HONORABLE SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under the Regalian doctrine which is embodied in Section 2, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution, all lands of the public domain belong to the State, which is the source of any asserted right to ownership of land. As an incident of ownership over public lands, it is also the prime duty of the State therefore to promote and develop these in order for them to reach their full use and potential.

Being an archipelago, the Philippines is gifted with an abundance of beaches with incomparable beauty. Because of this and the persistent efforts of the State, the country has gained acknowledgement as a major tourist destination in the world. Throughout the century, beach attractions such as Boracay Beach in Aklan, El Nido in Palawan, Puerto Galera in Mindoro etc., have become and continue to be an attraction.

However, these are not the only places to explore in the Philippines. The plethora of wonderful beaches in the country remains undiscovered and untapped. One of which is the Manok Manok Island located in the easily accessible municipality of Esperanza, Province of Masbate. Situated less than four hours away from the main city of Masbate, Manok Manok Island offers a breathtaking experience with its extensive shorelines filled with fine white sand. Manok Manok Island presents as an alternative to the prominent beaches of the country.

This bill seeks to jumpstart the development and promotion of the wonder hidden in Manok Manok Island by declaring it as a tourism spot. Through this, the recognition of Manok Manok Island shall be fast-tracked and the progress of the surrounding community shall also be benefited. In view of the State policy to promote and maximize tourism as a means for economic development, early approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D
Representative
Third District, Province of Masbate

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE MANOK MANOK ISLAND AND ITS PREMISES LOCATED IN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF ESPERANZA, PROVINCE OF MASBATE
AS A TOURIST SPOT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The Manok Manok Island and its premises located in the Municipality of Esperanza, Province of Masbate is hereby declared as a tourist spot. As such, it shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourist spots.

SEC. 2. The Department of Tourism, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Authority, the local government unit of Esperanza and other concerned agencies of the government, shall, within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, prepare the development plan involving construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities which shall enhance tourism in the area. Provided, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural resources thereof.

SEC. 3. The Department of Tourism (DOT) shall take immediate and appropriate steps in implementing the said development plan that will suit the natural characteristic of the Manok Manok Island and shall incorporate the same in the Department's overall tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year and for the following years. It shall likewise be the duty of the DOT to promote the Manok Manok Island as a tourism spot in all its national, regional and local promotion programs.

SEC. 4. The DOT shall likewise promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective enforcement of the provisions 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 Department of Tourism.

SEC. 6. If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining part or provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,