

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1066**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RECEIVED

DATE: 05 JUL 2018

TIME: 10:29 a

BY: [Signature]

REGISTRATION UNIT
BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

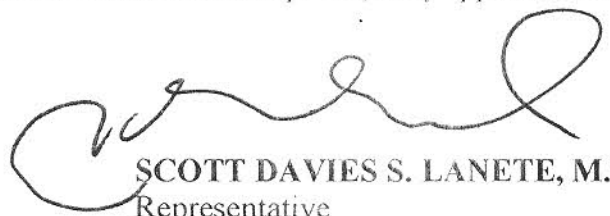
Under the Regalian doctrine which is embodied in Section 2, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution, all lands of the public domain belong to the State, which is the source of any asserted right to ownership of land. As an incident of ownership over public lands, it is also the prime duty of the State therefore 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. Examples of which are the virgin undiscovered beaches located in the easily accessible municipality of Pio V. Corpuz, Province of Masbate.

Pio V. Corpuz offers a breathtaking experience with its vast islands filled with fine white sand. One of these is Balangingi Island. This island is a 4.9 hectare track of land declared as a marine sanctuary of Pio V. Corpuz. It boasts of small cottages where tourists can stay a day or two to enjoy nature with fine white beach front and beautiful corals suitable for swimming, snorkeling and diving. It is a 30 minute ride by boat from the town proper of Pio V Corpuz with affordable rates for boat hire and inland facilities rentals.

Hence, this bill seeks to jumpstart the development and promotion of the Island of Balangingi by declaring it as an ecotourism site. Through this, the recognition of this hidden wonder shall be fast-tracked and the progress of the surrounding community shall also be benefited without compromising the existing ecosystem. 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

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1066**

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

AN ACT
DECLARING THE ISLAND OF BALANGINGI IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
PIO V. CORPUZ, PROVINCE OF MASBATE, AN ECOTOURISM SITE
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a sustainable and effective ecotourism industry to attract tourists, both local and foreign. Towards this end, the country shall rationalize all efforts pertaining to environmental protection and making the tourism industry a major source of livelihood and an avenue for the generation of employment. Aggressive measures shall be taken to restore the country's share in the Asian tourist market which shall be consistent with the preservation of the existing ecosystem and natural environment.

SECTION 2. The Island of Balangingi in the Municipality of Pio V. Corpuz, Province of Masbate I shereby declared an ecotourism site.

SEC. 3. There shall be created an ecotourism board, to be known as the Balangingi Ecotourism Governing Board within one (1) year from the approval of this Act.

The Governing Board shall be composed of the following:

- (a) The Representative of the Third District of Masbate, as Chairperson;
- (b) The Secretary of the Department of Tourism (DOT) or a duly authorized representative;
- (c) The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) or a duly authorized representative;
- (d) A member of a non-government organization whose advocacy is environmental preservation;
- (e) A member of the academe;
- (f) A representative from the business sector; and
- (g) The Mayor of the Municipality of Pio V. Corpuz.

The Governing Board shall prepare the rules and regulations necessary for the full implementation by the local government unit of Pio V. Corpuz of the provisions of this Act

and shall, whenever necessary, amend, modify or revise such rules and regulations to meet existing needs.

SECTION 4. The provincial government of Masbate shall provide a Secretariat for the Governing Board, including the necessary expenses for the performance of its official functions and activities.

SECTION 5. The DOT and the DENR shall develop, within four (4) months from the approval of this Act, a master plan to be approved by the President of the Republic of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Governing Board.

SECTION 6. The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and internally generated funds of the DOT.

SECTION 7. 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.

SECTION 8. 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.

SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,