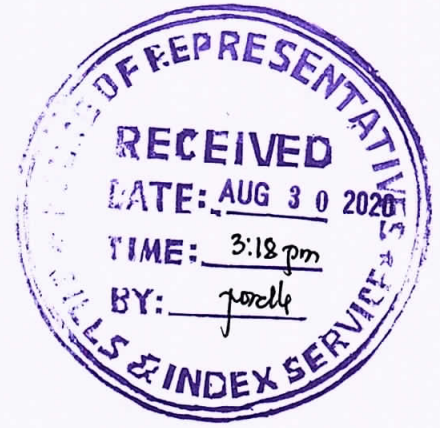


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7551



Introduced by Representative **ANTONIO "TONYPET" T. ALBANO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution provides that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature (Section 16, Article II)

This bill seeks to declare Malasi Tree Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in Barangay San Antonio, Cabagan, Province of Isabela as ecotourism site.

Malasi Tree Park and Wildlife Sanctuary was declared as Critical Habitat by virtue of Department of Environment (DENR) Administrative Order No. 2012-01 in order to protect the habitat and population of the endemic and threatened Philippine Wild Duck (*Anas luzonica*) and other migratory water bird species dependent on the area. It covers an approximate area of one hundred seventy-eight and 80/100 (178.80) hectares. The sanctuary has three (3) lagoons namely Malasi Lake Dakal, Malasi Lake Baddi and Macabanning which have been used as habitat of the Philippine Wild Duck and other migratory birds.

The declaration of the Malasi Tree Park and Wildlife Sanctuary as Biodiversity and Eco-tourism site will help conserve, protect, manage and develop the natural resources found therein. It will likewise generate employment opportunities for the locals in the area that will help them improve their socio-economic condition.

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

ANTONIO "TONYPET" T. ALBANO

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HOUSE BILL NO. 7551

Introduced by Representative **ANTONIO "TONYPET" T. ALBANO**

AN ACT
DECLARING MALASI TREE PARK AND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY IN BARANGAY
SAN ANTONIO, CABAGAN, PROVINCE OF ISABELA AS AN ECO-TOURISM
SITE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Malasi Tree Park and
2 Wildlife Sanctuary Act of 2020".
3

4 Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State is mandated to promote a tourism
5 industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive,
6 economically viable, and equitable for the local community. Towards this end, the
7 Malasi Tree Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is hereby declared as a special ecotourism
8 zone, where the responsible and sustainable use of the natural resources therein is
9 encouraged and will be strictly implemented.
10

11 Section 3. *Malasi Tree Park and Wildlife Sanctuary Ecotourism Site.* The Malasi
12 Tree Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is hereby declared as an ecotourism site and its
13 development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the
14 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and shall be subject to the
15 rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism sites.
16

17 Section 4. *Malasi Tree Park and Wildlife Sanctuary Development Council.* A multi-
18 sectoral council to be known as "Malasi Tree Park and Wildlife Sanctuary Development
19 Council" shall be created, whose term of office of members shall be co-terminus with the
20 incumbent Municipal Mayor of Cabagan, Isabela. It shall be composed of the following:
21

- 22 a. A representative from the Office of the Mayor of the Municipality of Cabagan,
23 as Chairperson;
24 b. The Head of the Municipal Tourism Office;
25 c. The Head of the Cabagan Municipal Environment and Natural Resources
26 Office;
27 d. A representative from the DOT;

- e. A representative from the DENR;
- f. Two (2) representatives from the private sector in the Province of Isabela.

Section 5. *Function and Responsibilities of the Council.* The Council shall have the following functions:

- a. Formulation and implementation of the Malasi Tree Park and Wildlife Sanctuary Development Plan in consultation with the local residents, businesses and other stakeholders;
- b. Assessment and evaluation of the potential impact of the development to the environmental safety and well-being of the site, communities and enterprises;
- c. Provision of technical and financial assistance to the communities within the site;
- d. Formulation of rules and regulations in relation to the maintenance and security of the ecotourism site; and
- e. Performance of other functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

Section 6. *Appropriations.* The Secretaries of the DOT and the DENR shall include in their respective Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and from generated funds of the DOT.

Section 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the Municipality of Cabagan, the DENR, and the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act.

The DOT shall be the agency which shall take care of planning, implementing, coordinating and monitoring the provisions of this Act

Section 8. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 9. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, rules, regulations, proclamations, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby modified or amended accordingly.

Section 10. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,