

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

18th CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 9371



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MARICEL NATIVIDAD-NAGAÑO

AN ACT
DECLARING MINALUNGAO NATIONAL PARK IN THE PROVINCE
OF NUEVA ECIJA A PROTECTED AREA TO BE KNOWN AS
MINALUNGAO PROTECTED LANDSCAPE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

By virtue of the collective wisdom of Congress, Republic Act No. 5100 was enacted on June 17, 1967 establishing the Minalungao National Park in the Province of Nueva Ecija; a parcel of the public domain situated within the territorial jurisdictions of the City of Gapan and the Municipality of Gen. Tinio.

Considered as one of the few remaining natural environments in Region 3, and home to a large number of wildlife, flora and fauna; the need to fully protect and preserve the area from threats to its biological diversity; man-made or otherwise cannot be understated.

With the passage into law of Republic Act No. 7586 or the National Integrated Protective Area System (NIPAS) Act of 1992 as amended by Republic Act No. 11038 otherwise known as the Expanded National Integrated Protective Area System (eNIPAS) Act of 2018, the Minalungao National Park was designated as one of the initial components of the System, as a matter of right and by operation of law.

Section 5, letter (a) of RA 11038 is noticeably clear, and we quote:

“Sec. 5. Establishment and Extent of the System – The establishment and operationalization of the System shall involve the following:

(a) All areas, or islands in the Philippines proclaimed, designated or set aside, **pursuant to a law**, presidential decree, presidential proclamation or executive order as national park, game refuge, bird and wildlife sanctuary, wilderness area, strict nature reserve, watershed, mangrove reserve, fish sanctuary, natural and historical landmark, protected and managed landscape/seascape as well as old growth forests **identified before the effectivity of this Act** or still to be identified, **are initial components of the System. The initial components of the System shall be governed by existing laws, rules and regulations, not inconsistent with this Act.**”

From 1994 to the present, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in tandem with the Local Governments of Gapan and Gen. Tinio as well as all the other stakeholders in the Province of Nueva Ecija has conducted activities to fully comply with the provisions of RA 7586 as amended by RA 11038 on the requirements for the declaration of Minalungao National Park as a Protected Landscape through an act of Congress.

Minalungao National Park with an area of 2,018 hectares requires huge amount of resources to preserve its environment and all indigenous species found therein, as well as its full protection as provided for in the NIPAS Act as amended, and as far as practical and applicable; in addition to other provisions in Republic Act No. 9072 or the “National Cave and Cave Resources Management and Protection Act”; Republic Act No. 9147 or the “Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act”; Republic Act No. 8550 or the “Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998”, as amended by Republic Act No. 10654; Presidential Decree No. 705 or the “Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines and other related laws.

At this time when we are preparing for and looking at local tourism as a source of revenues and as part of the overall GNP, this representation seeks the collective endorsement and support of the 18th Congress to allow us Novo Ecijanos the opportunity to contribute more while ensuring the conservation and preservation of our natural resource.

For reasons as stated and implied, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



MARICEL NATIVIDAD-NAGAÑO, MD

Representative

4th District of Nueva Ecija

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

Section 1. This Act shall be known as the “Minalungao Protected Landscape Act of 2020”.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – Pursuant to Republic Act No. 7586 or the National Integrated Protective Area System (NIPAS) Act of 1992 as amended by Republic Act No. 11038 otherwise known as the Expanded National Integrated Protective Area System (eNIPAS) Act of 2018, it is a declared policy of the State to ensure the protection and conservation of Minalungao National Park as a protected area in order to preserve its unique biodiversity, landscape, social, cultural and economic significance to the people of the Province of Nueva Ecija.

Section 3. Scope and Coverage - The boundaries of Minalungao Protected Landscape are as follows:

Beginning at point marked "1" on DENR NIPAS Map No. ___ at S06-24W, 1684.09 meters more or less, from PRS92 Control Mon. NEJ-78 (NE-3) at 15-18-53.356N" latitude and 121-07-07.875E" longitude, Barangay Kapotatang, Municipality of General Tinio, Nueva Ecija, thence;

N 09-26-44 W	149.125 m.	to corner 2
N 14-00 W	520 meters	to corner 3
N 69-00 E	550 meters	to corner 4
S 12-00 W	150 meters	to corner 5
S 18-00 W	263 meters	to corner 6
S 32-00 E	150 meters	to corner 7
N 39-00 E	150 meters	to corner 8
N 33-00 E	275 meters	to corner 9
N 14-00 E	375 meters	to corner 10
N 41-00 E	425 meters	to corner 11
N 50-00 E	250 meters	to corner 12
N 05-00 W	325 meters	to corner 13
N 08-00 E	425 meters	to corner 14
N 11-00 E	413 meters	to corner 15
N 06-00 E	438 meters	to corner 16
S 90-00 E	4000 meters	to corner 17
S 00-00 W	1950 meters	to corner 18
S 00-00 E	2378 meters	to corner 19
N 90-00 W	5000 meters	to corner 20
N 19-24 W	499.08 meters	to corner 21
N 10-10 E	153.99 meters	to corner 22
N 19-44 E	218.18 meters	to corner 23
N 21-55 W	192.24 meters	to corner 24
N 35-08 W	267.94 meters	to corner 25

The point of beginning, containing an area of Two Thousand Eighteen (2,018.0) hectares more or less subject to actual ground survey.

Sec. 2. The area herein declared as a Protected Landscape shall be subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 7586 otherwise known as the National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) Act of 1992, as amended by Republic Act No. 11038 otherwise known as the Expanded National Integrated Protected Area System (eNIPAS) Act of 2018 and other related laws.

Sec. 3. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof are not affected thereby and shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 4. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Sec. 5. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.