

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10103



Introduced by: Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D.

AN ACT

DECLARING MAULAWIN SPRING PROTECTED LANDSCAPE IN BARANGAYS CALIMPAK, SAN PEDRO I, MAGSAYSAY AND HIMBUBULO WESTE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUINAYANGAN, PROVINCE OF QUEZON AS ECO-TOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 16 of 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."*

The Maulawin Spring Protected Landscape has been declared a protected are by virtue of Republic Act No. 11038, otherwise known as the *"Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018"*. The area consists of forested hills and several rivers and streams located in Guinayangan, Quezon.

It was created in 1939 to protect the watershed in Guinayangan, Quezon known as the Maulawin Spring Watershed Forest Reserve, which was declared through Proclamation No. 365 by President Manuel Luis Quezon. It had an initial area of 60 hectares (150 acres). In 2000, the forest reserve was enlarged and was redesignated as a protected landscape under the National Integrated Protected Areas System by virtue of Proclamation No. 295 issued by President Joseph Estrada. It is the only source of potable water for domestic consumption of the more than 40,000 residents of Guinayangan.

The Maulawin Spring Protected Landscape covers an area of 149.01 hectares (368.2 acres) of lowland forest in the barangays of Himbubulo, San Pedro and Magsaysay in west-central Guinayangan. It sits on a hilly terrain in the eastern portion of the Tayabas Isthmus and the northeastern extreme of Bondoc Peninsula near Guinayangan's border with the municipalities of Calauag and Lopez. The park is traversed by several rivers and creeks, some of which dry up during the summer months and which empty into the Catabangan Bay and Ragay Gulf, including the Maulawin River, Hiwasayan River, Tubog Creek and Prenza River. These rivers supply water for the Guinayangan Water District. The topography of the park is characterized as a complex of land configuration ranging from slightly level, sloping to rolling, and steep to hilly and rugged mountains. It has an elevation of between 250 metres (820 ft) and 500 metres (1,600 ft) above sea level and is composed primarily of clay loam.

The park is located about 1.5 kilometres (0.93 mi) west of the Guinayangan Poblacion and some 130 kilometers (81 mi) east of the provincial capital city of Lucena. It is surrounded by private agricultural lands and coconut plantations in Ermita, San Roque, Dungawan and Sisi. It is accessible via the provincial road to Guinayangan from the Pan-Philippine Highway (AH26) in Calauag, thence by foot through numerous trails from barangays Sisi and Calimpak.

The park is a forested area with sixty percent of its territory inhabited by dipterocarp trees, including molave, kamagong, guijo, red lauan, and white lauan, yakal and manggachapui. It is home to a diverse bird species, such as the Philippine dwarf kingfisher, rufous hornbill, northern sooty woodpecker, black-naped oriole, Philippine coucal, jungle crow, coledo, black-winged kite and Philippine collared dove. It also supports some large mammals, including the crab-eating macaque, Philippine deer, Philippine warty pig, Asian palm civet, as well several bats and snakes.¹

The bill seeks to declare the Maulawin Spring Protected Landscape in the Municipality of Guinayangan, Province of Quezon as eco-tourism site. Its designations as an eco-tourism destination will greatly help facilitate the growth and promotion of tourism in Quezon and the CALABARZON. It will also ensure that the rich biological diversity in the area is protected and preserved. Also, its growth as an eco-tourism destination will significantly support the local economy by providing employment and trade opportunities.

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



ANGELINA "HELEN" D.L. TAN, M.D.

4th District, Quezon

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maulawin_Spring_Protected_Landscape Accessed on 20 August 2021

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “Maulawin Spring Protected Landscape Eco-Tourism Zone Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable and equitably beneficial to local communities.

SEC. 3. *Maulawin Spring Protected Landscape Eco-Tourism Zone.* – The Maulawin Spring Protected Landscape located in Barangays Calimpak, San Pedro I, Magsaysay, and Himbubulo Weste in the Municipality of Guinayangan, Province of Quezon is hereby declared an eco-tourism zone. Its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.

The DOT shall prepare the development plan for the Maulawin Spring Protected Landscape and shall incorporate the same in the overall National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP), pursuant to Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as “The Tourism Act of 2009”. The Plan shall be implemented jointly with the Municipality of Guinayangan, the local Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), and the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA).

The DOT, in coordination with the Municipality of Guinayangan, the PAMB, the TIEZA, and other concerned agencies of government, shall identify well defined areas within the Maulawin Spring Protected Landscape Eco-Tourism Zone and ensure the integrated development of these areas for the optimum utilization of natural assets and attractions, as well as the preservation of their historic significance.

SEC. 4. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of Tourism 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.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Tourism, in consultation with the Municipality of Guinayangan, the PAMB and the TIEZA, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,