

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10318



Introduced by **Representative FRANZ E. ALVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Calauit Safari Park, shipwrecks, the Twin Lagoon and Kayangan Lake, and Culion Sanitarium are relatively inaccessible without the only gateway by air to northern Palawan's internationally known tourist destinations — Busuanga Airport.

For a time, only a few hardcore rubbernecks dare travel to Calamianes, the collective name for these island jewels home to the Municipalities of Busuanga and Coron in Busuanga Island, and Linapacan and Culion, in separate islands.

Before the pandemic struck, no less than five flights land and depart daily from Busuanga Airport. But that's when the weather's all bright and sunny. There are days however when, after a flight has departed from NAIA following a verified clear skies to the hour-long destination, clouds and crosswind would converge over and around the airport forcing a "go-around" or, worse for the stoked first-timer to Calamianes, a "turn-back" to the aerodrome of origin.

This is because the runway was built over the then existing local airstrip used for private missions before there were commercial flights. The runway was never re-oriented in anticipation of additional traffic. Neither was it prepared for extension to accommodate big bodies, instrument flight rules or IFR, nor night or low visibility landing.

The present runway with its limitation somewhat stifles the growth of the tourism industry in Calamianes considering that, at any given time, the maximum number of visitors who can book a night or two in any of the Calamianes destinations is directly proportional to the capacity of the aircrafts that are able to land. Save for SkyJet's BAE 146, only turboprops are able to land in the Airport such as PAL's Dash 8-400 and Cebu Pacific's ATR.

The National Government through the GAA and a possible PPP undertaking approved by the NEDA has already decided to re-orient the runway, extend its length, and equip it for IFR and night or low visibility operations. The missing element is the space needed to ensure that the airport facility will be future-proof — that is, ready for international arrivals and departures.

The positive impact of more tourists is best captured by the Department of Tourism in one of its ad campaigns: "in tourism, no one is left behind". This Bill will give Busuanga Airport the space it needs for its expansion now and in the future leading to increased arrivals, establishment of more accommodations, tourism businesses, jobs and related enterprises, and of course, the consequent growth in the local and national domestic product.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this Bill is earnestly requested.


FRANZ E. ALVAREZ

FRANZ E. ALVAREZ
DATE 29.09.2021
16:33:00 +08'00"

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10318

Introduced by Representative **FRANZ E. ALVAREZ**

AN ACT
SEGREGATING A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING AN AREA OF NOT LESS
THAN THREE HUNDRED (300) HECTARES LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES
OF BUSUANGA AND CORON, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN FROM BUSUANGA
PASTURE RESERVE FOR THE EXPANSION OF BUSUANGA AIRPORT,
CLASSIFYING SAID PARCEL AS AGRICULTURAL LAND, TRANSFERRING ITS
ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT TO THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY
OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. A parcel of land within Busuanga Pasture Reserve located in the Municipalities of Busuanga and Coron, Province of Palawan containing an area of not less than three hundred (300) hectares to include the present site of Busuanga Airport (Francisco B. Reyes Airport) and presently under the administration of the Forest Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 1387 (13 February 1975), as amended by Presidential Proclamation No. 663 (14 October 2013), is hereby segregated from Busuanga Pasture Reserve and withdrawn from the coverage of Presidential Proclamation No. 1387 (13 February 1975), as amended.

SEC. 2. Said parcel of land including the present site of Busuanga Airport is hereby classified as agricultural land and its use shall be devoted exclusively to the expansion of the Airport and development of airport, tourism, trade, police, military and other government facilities and infrastructure and shall be known as the “Calamianes Aerodrome Complex”.

SEC. 3. Calamianes Aerodrome Complex shall be registered under the name Republic of the Philippines pursuant to the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 1529 or the Property Registration Decree, *Provided that*, no portion thereof shall be subject to sale, settlement or any form of disposition, exploration or exploitation.

SEC. 4. The administration and management of Calamianes Aerodrome Complex shall be under the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines.

SEC. 4. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,