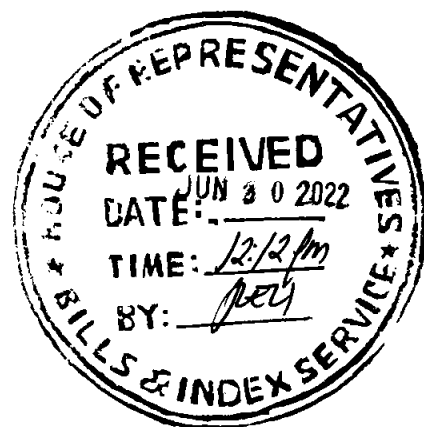




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 35

Introduced by HON. LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO

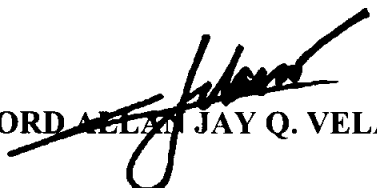
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, being an archipelagic state, is globally known for its tourist spots and destinations, especially our pristine white sand beaches. Accordingly, these destinations generate great economic activity and provide livelihood to surrounding communities.

One of these destinations can be found in the Heart of the Philippines, the Province of Marinduque. The Torrijos White Beach, found in the Municipality of Torrijos, is a kilometer stretch of fine white sand which offers tourists an astounding beach experience. Torrijos White Beach also offers a view of the province's highest peak, Mt. Malindig.

The establishment of the Torrijos White Beach as an ecotourism site will greatly help its development while ensuring that its natural beauty will be preserved. It will also help spur economic development not only in the Province of Marinduque, but the whole country as well.

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


LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
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HOUSE BILL NO. 35

Introduced by HON. LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO

**AN ACT DECLARING TORRIJOS WHITE BEACH LOCATED IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF TORRIJOS, PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE, AN
ECOTOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Torrijos White Beach
Ecotourism Act.”

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – 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 to make the tourism
industry a major source of livelihood and an avenue for economic development. Moreover,
measures shall be taken to ensure that tourism development is consistent with the national
policy of protecting and conserving the natural environment threat.

Sec. 3. Ecotourism Site. – The Torrijos White Beach, located in the Municipality of
Torrijos, Province of Marinduque, is declared an ecotourism site. As such, its development
shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and other concerned agencies and
shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism sites.

Sec. 4. Ecotourism Governing Board. – Within one (1) year from the approval of
this Act, there shall be created an ecotourism governing board, to be known as the Torrijos
White Beach Ecotourism Governing Board, herein referred to as the “Board” and shall be
composed of the following:

- a) Mayor of the Municipality of Torrijos, as Chairperson:

- b) Secretary of the Department of Tourism (DOT) or a duly-authorized representative, as member;
- c) Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) or a duly-authorized representative, as member;
- d) Representative of the Lone District of Marinduque, or a duly-authorized representative, as member;
- e) A representative from an accredited non-governmental organization whose advocacy is environmental preservation, as member;
- f) A representative from the academe, as member; and
- g) A representative from the business sector, as member.

The Board shall prepare the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation by the local government unit of Torrijos of the provisions of this Act and shall, whenever necessary, amend, modify or revise such rules and regulations to meet existing needs.

Sec. 5. Ecotourism Development Plan. – Within one (1) year from the approval of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the municipal government of Torrijos, the Representative of the Lone District of Marinduque, and other concerned government agencies, shall prepare a development plan involving the construction, installation, and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure which shall enhance tourism in the ecotourism site: *Provided*, that the said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and indigenous nature of the locality.

Sec. 6. Implementation of the Plan. – The DOT shall take immediate steps in implementing the tourism development plan and incorporate the same in its overall development plans and programs for national implementation.

Sec. 7. Appropriations. – 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 from internally generated funds of the DOT.

Sec. 8. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

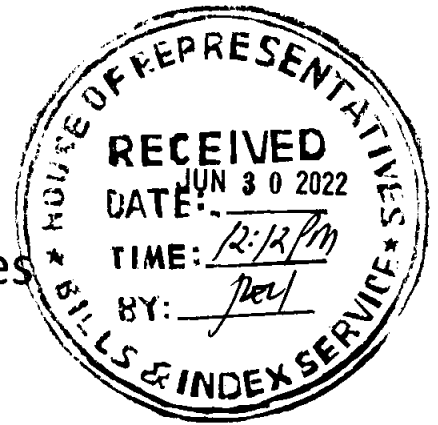
Sec. 9. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or any part thereof which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Sec. 10. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

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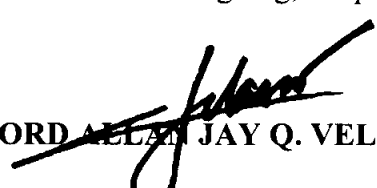
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