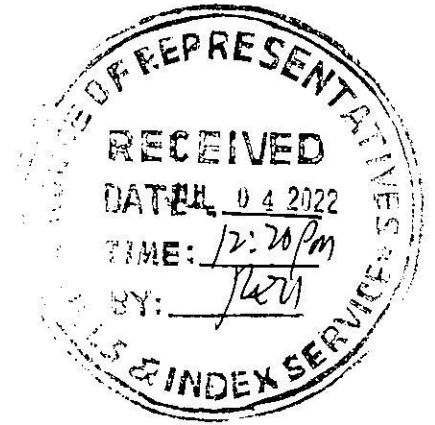


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1062



Introduced by Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma
Lone District of Nueva Vizcaya

AN ACT DECLARING BARANGAY MALICO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA FE, PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare Barangay Malico in the Municipality of Santa Fe, Province of Nueva Vizcaya an ecotourism zone.

Barangay Malico is one of the sixteen (16) barangays in the Municipality of Santa Fe, which stretches to the municipalities of Santa Rosa in Nueva Ecija, and San Nicolas in Pangasinan. It is a small barangay with a population of two hundred twenty-six (226) people as determined by the 2015 census, that mostly belong to the *Ikalahan-Kalanguya* tribe. It has an elevation of 1,675 meters above sea level, which is higher than Baguio City. Its cold weather temperature of seven to nine degrees Celsius is suitable for growing crops like strawberries, cabbage, carrots, and other upland vegetables.

Barangay Malico has a picturesque view that offers tourists magnificent landscapes filled with a pine forest that stretches along the Pangasinan-Nueva Vizcaya road. Every portion of the road is Instagram-worthy that gives motorists and tourists a breathtaking view of the undiscovered mountain paradise. The place also offers an amazing view of the sunset over the plains of Nueva Vizcaya and Pangasinan. Tourists may also have a glimpse of World War II because the remains of the Sherman tank, which the United States 32nd Infantry Division used during the American-Japanese war, still sit in the middle of the forest. A World War II Peace Memorial Park was also in Barangay Malico, in honor of thousands of gallant soldiers who died in the war.

After exploring the pine forest of Barangay Malico tourists may dive and relax in the cold water of Hingi and Seven Layer waterfalls.

Because of its cultural heritage, rich natural wonders, untouched nature, and unique terrain, Barangay Malico requires preservation, sustainability as well as development to enhance and preserve its beauty and progress. It may be recognized as a first-class ecotourism destination if it is equipped with amenities and facilities complementing its full potential as an ecotourism zone.

The declaration of Barangay Malico as an ecotourism zone will promote its preservation and will create economic opportunities for local communities.

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


LUISA LLOREN CUARESMA



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

SECTION 1. Barangay Malico, in the Municipality of Santa Fe, Province of Nueva Vizcaya is hereby declared an ecotourism zone. Its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.

SECTION 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT shall, in coordination with the local government units of the Municipality of Santa Fe and agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan involving the construction, installation, and maintenance of appropriate infrastructure and facilities that shall encourage tourism in the area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the area: *Provided, further*, That any activities and development to be carried out in the area should conform with the concept of ecotourism as provided in the national ecotourism strategy jointly issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the DOT.

SECTION 3. The DOT and its attached agencies shall take immediate steps to implement the tourism development plan that suits the natural characteristics of Barangay Malico, and shall incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year. It shall also include Barangay Malico in all its national, regional, and local promotion programs.

SECTION 4. The Secretary of Tourism shall include in the DOT'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.

SECTION 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Tourism shall, in consultation with the local government of the Municipality of Santa Fe, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended accordingly.

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

Approved,