

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5113



Introduced by Representative Michael B. Gorriceta

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Ecological tourism focuses on maintaining pristine, unspoiled natural environments and providing direct financial benefits for conservation and empowerment for local people. It also promotes the social, cultural and economic well-being of travel destinations and local communities.

This bill seeks to declare Barangay Bucari in the Municipality of Leon, Province of Iloilo as an ecotourism zone.

Barangay Bucari is known for its cool climate, topography, pine forest and natural scenery. In 1996, a task force was created through Executive Order Number 170 to initiate the plan to develop Barangay Bucari area as the Summer Capital of Iloilo.

Further recognized by its low temperature and natural sights similar to Baguio City, it is considered as the top destination for nature lovers and serenity seekers. This is accentuated by its local produce of high value crops and the presence of rare flora and fauna.

This bill encourages the preservation and maintenance of the natural ecosystem present in Barangay Bucari. This also includes the protection of the area and its appropriate development for its residents, as well as the local and foreign tourists visiting the area, yearning towards its balanced ecology and sustainability.

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


MICHAEL B. GORRICETA

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**AN ACT DECLARING BARANGAY BUCARI IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEON,
PROVINCE OF ILOILO, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Barangay Bucari in the Municipality of Leon, Province of Iloilo is hereby declared as an ecotourism zone. As such, 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 six (6) months after the approval of this Act, the DOT in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) shall, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and concerned local government units (LGUs) and agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of appropriate infrastructure and facilities to enhance tourism in the area: Provided, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty, historical significance and resources of the area.

SECTION 3. The DOT and its concerned attached agencies shall take immediate steps to implement the tourism development plan with and shall incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the calendar year immediately succeeding the approval of this Act.

SECTION 4. The Secretary of 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 shall augment such allocation with internally generated funds of the Department.

SECTION 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT shall, in consultation with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and concerned LGUs and government agencies, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,