



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7159

Introduced by **HON. MUJIV S. HATAMAN** of the Lone District of Basilan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure seeks to declare Lampinigan Island in the City of Isabela, Province of Basilan, an ecotourism zone.

Lampinigan Island is one of the jewels of Basilan tucked within the jurisdiction of the province's capital city. It has a long stretch of white sand beaches and pristine waters. It is located in the barangay with the same name, and is home to a small community with over 300 households.

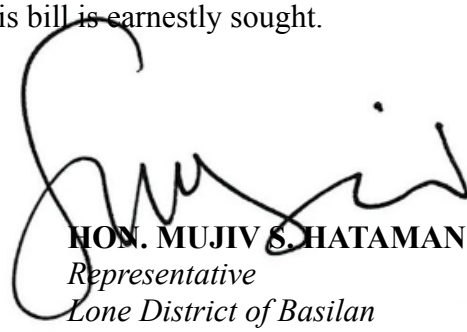
The island is a premier tourism spot in Isabela City that is being frequented by thousands of visitors both foreign and local every year. As far as white beaches go, Lampinigan Island is said to be one of the best white beaches in the country, at par with more popular ones such as Boracay Island.

Tourism in the island is a booming industry that provides livelihood not only to the community of Barangay Lampinigan, but to residents of Isabela City and nearby municipalities. The local economy benefits from the influx of local and foreign tourists in the island.

This is the reason behind this measure. Lampinigan Island can be so much more given the right development. This bill is envisioned to develop the tourism hotspot as a world-class destination by declaring it as an ecotourism zone.

It also aims to ensure the development and protection of the area, provide livelihood, boost tourism, maintain the natural beauty and preserve the resources therein. It requires a planned and sustainable development to enhance and preserve its natural and unspoiled beauty.

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



HON. MUJIV S. HATAMAN
Representative
Lone District of Basilan



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**AN ACT DECLARING LAMPINIGAN ISLAND IN THE CITY OF ISABELA,
PROVINCE OF BASILAN AS AN ECOTOURISM SITE, PROVIDING FOR ITS
DEVELOPMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

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 “Lampinigan Ecotourism Site 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 thereat.

SEC. 3. The Lampinigan Ecotourism Site – The Lampinigan Island, which is located in the City of Isabela, Province of Basilan, is hereby declared an ecotourism site. As such, its development and protection, shall become part of the priorities of the Department of

Tourism (DOT), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and other concerned government agencies, and shall be subject to applicable laws, rules, and regulations that govern the development and protection of ecotourism sites.

SEC. 4. The Lampinigan Ecotourism Development Plan – Within one (1) year from the approval of this Act, the DOT, DENR, Local Government of Isabela City in coordination with the District Representative of the Lone District of Basilan, and other concerned government agencies and civil society organizations, shall formulate the Lampinigan Ecotourism Development Plan involving the construction, installation, and maintenance of appropriate facilities and infrastructure which shall enhance tourism in Lampinigan Island: *Provided*, that the said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and indigenous nature of the locality.

SEC. 5. The Lampinigan Ecotourism Board – Within one (1) year from the approval of this Act, the Lampinigan Ecotourism Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, shall be created. It shall be composed of the following:

- a. City Mayor of Isabela City as Chairperson,
- b. Representatives from the Department of Tourism (DOT), and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), as Co-Vice Chairperson,
- c. Congressman of the Lone District of Basilan, or his duly authorized representative, as member,
- d. City Tourism Officer, and City Environment and Natural Resources Officer, as members, and
- e. Representatives from an accredited Non-Government Organization with tourism or environmental advocacy, the academe, and the business sector, as members.

The Board shall ensure that the ecotourism development plan as provided for in Section 4 of this Act is implemented, and that any programs, projects and activities in Lampingan Island are in accordance thereto. Furthermore, the Board is hereby authorized to propose additions and/or amendments to the development plan, as necessary.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days after the approval of this Act, the DOT and the DENR shall formulate and thereafter issue the rules and regulations for the implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. Appropriations. – The DOT and the DENR shall include in their respective agency the funding necessary for the implementation of this Act which shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. Separability Clause. – Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules, and regulation or parts thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,