

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 9578



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVES LANI MERCADO-REVILLA,
BRYAN B. REVILLA AND RAMON JOLO REVILLA III

AN ACT

DECLARING THE SINEGUELASAN MANGROVES PARK, LOCATED IN DULONG PULO, BARANGAY SINBANALI, BACOR CITY, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE TO BE KNOWN AS CITY OF BACOR MANGROVE AND ECOTOURISM PARK

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Mangroves are vital ecosystems that play a multifaceted role in environmental conservation and community well-being. These unique coastal forests are instrumental in mitigating soil erosion, offering protection against storm surges, and serving as a crucial source of sustenance and shelter for various marine life forms and avian species.¹

In the light of these valuable contributions, the City of Bacor takes immense pride in its own mangroves park, nestled in Dulong Pulo, Barangay Sinbanali (formerly Barangay Sineguelasan), a small barangay famous for its fish port, mussels and oyster wharf. The Barangay is now known as Barangay Sinbanali, following the merger of Barangays Sineguelasan, Banalo, and Alima. This previously underutilized land, which had once been cultivated for turnips before being transformed into a swampland, spans 40 hectares.² Approximately 20 hectares have

¹ Barnes, E. (2022, January 4). *Mangroves as a solution to the climate crisis*. WWF. <https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/mangroves-as-a-solution-to-the-climate-crisis>

² MIS Department. (2023, October 10). *Mangrove Plantation*. Bacor City Government . <https://bacor.gov.ph/tourism/mangrove-plantation/#:~:text=As%20part%20of%20Mayor%20Strike%20B.%20Revilla%E2%80%99s%20programs,a%20swampland%2C%20the%20mangrove%20area%20covered%2040%20hectares.>

already been adorned with 132,000 propagules sourced from Sariaya, Quezon.³ During colder seasons, it becomes a haven for migratory birds, while an abundance of crabs, shrimps, and snails thrive within this flourishing mangrove plantation.⁴

Furthermore, numerous initiatives, apart from the local government of Bacoor, have contributed to the propagation of mangroves. Notable among them is the annual “Coastal Clean Up Drive” of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) led by the Cavite Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), the “Plant for Life” event organized by Maynilad water.⁵ Additionally, the St. Dominic College of Asia has made significant strides in planting mangroves in the area,⁶ further accentuating the collective commitment to preserving these vital ecosystems.

Although this mangroves park has been featured in a number of vlogs,⁷ it remains largely undiscovered by the general public. The lack of adequate development and promotion has constrained its tourism potential. To harness the full potential of this mangrove sanctuary, it is imperative that it be officially designated as an ecotourism zone. Such a transformation will result in the betterment of the environment, the local community, and the broader goals of sustainable development.

Given these compelling reasons, the swift passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



REP. LANI MERCADO-REVILLA

2nd District of Cavite



REP. BRYAN B. REVILLA

AGIMAT Partylist



REP. RAMON JOLO REVILLA III

1st District of Cavite

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ dela Cruz, A. (2023, October 10). 5K mangrove, tinanim ng maynilad sa bacoor cavite. *Philstar*. Retrieved October 11, 2023, from <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2022/04/03/2171860/5k-mangrove-tinanim-ng-maynilad-sa-bacoor-cavit>.

⁶ *Amidst odds, SDCA plants mangroves*. St. Dominic College of Asia. (2017, July 25). <https://stdominiccollege.edu.ph/index.php/component/k2/item/92-amidst-odds-sdca-plants-mangroves>

⁷ Hidden Mangrove Forest in Bacoor, Cavite Walk Tour (INOH). Meron Pala Mangrove Forest sa Bacoor Cavite (INOH), Hidden Mangrove Forest sa Bacoor (Reynald TV)

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

SECTION 1. The Sineguelasan Mangroves Park, located in Dulong Pulo, Barangay Sinbanali, City of Bacor, Province of Cavite, is hereby declared an ecotourism zone to be known as the City of Bacor Mangrove and Ecotourism Park. Pursuant thereto, its development shall be prioritized and supported 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 City Government of Bacor shall, in coordination with the DOT, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), the Office of the Second District Representative of Cavite, other concerned agencies of government and community stakeholders, prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of such 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 and resources of the area: *Provided, further*, That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the City Government of Bacor, with the assistance of the

DOT TIEZA or Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and other agencies of government and the private sector.

SECTION 3. The DOT shall assist the City Government of Bacoor in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance and in tourism capacity building. It shall also include the City of Bacoor Mangrove and Ecotourism Park in its national and regional promotion programs.

SECTION 4. The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the city government of Bacoor. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally-generated funds. The local government may seek partnerships with private sector through joint venture and private-public partnerships in accordance with law and local ordinances.

SECTION 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the City Government of Bacoor shall, in consultation with the DENR through the Cavite-PENRO, the Second District Representative of Cavite, the DOT, other concerned agencies of government, and community stakeholders promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SECTION 6. If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,