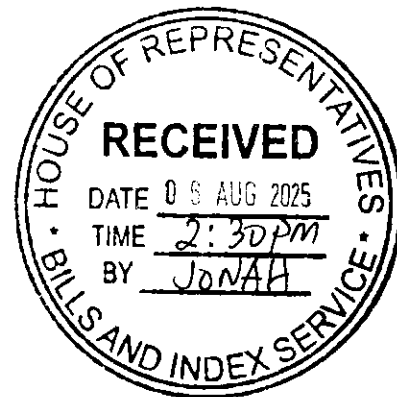


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



Begun and held in Metro Manila on _____, the _____ day of _____, two thousand
and twenty-five

HOUSE BILL NO. 3239

Introduced by Representative Agatha Paula "Agay" A. Cruz

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In September 2021, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) launched the "Big 21 in 2021" featuring 21 high-impact technologies and research and development (R&D) projects.¹ Among the 21 projects of the DOST is the Innovative Tissue Culture Laboratory or "iLAB" Garden City Project.

Despite the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the first Innovative Tissue Culture Laboratory for ornamental plants in the country was inaugurated in the municipality of Guiguinto on December 18, 2021 through the successful partnership between the DOST and the local government of Guiguinto.

Local social economic development through the utilization of tissue culture technologies is one of the goals in the establishment of the iLAB Garden City Project. The availability and access to state of the art facilities, training, and knowledge bank will supplement the conventional practices of local ornamental plant growers. It is envisioned that the iLAB Garden City Project will gain international attention in the near future.

To fully achieve national and even global recognition, the promotion of the iLAB Garden City Project as an ecotourism spot is vital to further bolster the tourism industry of the locality.

The proposed measure is in accord with Republic Act No. 9593 or the "Tourist Act of 2009" where it is emphasized that: "The State declares tourism as an indispensable element of the national economy and an industry of national interest and importance, which must be harnessed

¹ Department of Science and Technology (DOST), *Dost Showcases 21 High Impact Programs, Innovative S&T Projects That Will Shape The Future*, 30 August 2021, <https://www.dost.gov.ph/knowledge-resources/news/72-2021-news/2415-dost-showcases-21-high-impact-technologies-innovative-r-d-projects-that-will-shape-the-future.html>

as an engine of socio-economic growth and cultural affirmation to generate investment, foreign exchange, and employment, and to continue to mold an enhanced sense of national pride for all Filipinos."

The declaration of the iLAB Garden City Project as an ecotourism site will stimulate growth and progress in the domestic economy by opening avenues for local livelihood, tourist attraction, and propagation of tissue culture information.

Considering the foregoing, the immediate approval of this proposed measure is earnestly sought.


AGATHA PAULA "AGAY" A. CRUZ
Representative, Fifth District of Bulacan

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. **3239**

Introduced by Representative Agatha Paula "Agay" A. Cruz

AN ACT DECLARING THE INNOVATIVE TISSUE CULTURE LABORATORY OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ILAB GARDEN CITY PROJECT" AND ITS PREMISES LOCATED IN BARANGAY STA. CRUZ, MUNICIPALITY OF GUIGUINTO, PROVINCE OF BULACAN 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 "Guiguinto iLAB Garden City Project Act".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to recognize tourism as a cardinal element in the promotion of innovations in the field of agriculture, particularly the ornamental plant industry, through sustainable and effective ecotourism.

Section 3. Guiguinto iLAB Garden City Project. – The Innovative Tissue Culture Laboratory otherwise referred to as the "iLAB" Garden City Project and its premises located in Barangay Sta. Cruz, Municipality of Guiguinto, Province of Bulacan is hereby declared an ecotourism site. Its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with the Municipality of Guiguinto and other concerned agencies, subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism sites.

Section 4. Tourism Development and Promotion Plan. – Within one (1) year from the approval of this Act, the DOT shall prepare a tourism site development and promotion plan for the Guiguinto iLAB Garden City Project, in coordination with the with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), and consultation with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and other concerned agencies of the government. The said tourism site development and promotion plan shall provide, among others, for the construction, installation, and maintenance of appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall encourage tourism in the area: *Provided*, that such plan shall promote the environmental, economic, and scientific significance of tissue culture technology.

Section 5. *Coordination with the DOT.* – The DOT shall take prompt action towards the implementation of the tourism site development and promotion plan under the preceding Section. The said plan shall form part of the DOT's overall tourism development programs for the succeeding year following the effectivity of this Act.

Section 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DOT shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

Section 7. *Appropriations.* – The amounts necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the current appropriations of the DOT and thereafter it shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act under the projects of the DOT and against the internally generated funds of the DOT.

Section 8. *Separability clause* – If any provision of this Act be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Act.

Section 9. *Repealing clause.* – All provisions of laws, presidential decrees, letters of instruction and other presidential issuances which are incompatible or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed amended or repealed.

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

Approved,