

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3991



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PM VARGAS

AN ACT
DECLARING LA MESA DAM ECOPARK IN BARANGAY FAIRVIEW,
QUEZON CITY AS A TOURISM SITE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Tourism spots bring to mind ideas of picnic spots with grilling facilities, paddle boat ride in a lagoon (ala Baguio's Burnham Park), fitness trail with exercise stations, mountain bike trails along forested lanes, flower terraces, and the like. These are also platforms and opportunities for local government units to increase their revenue while protecting the environmental aspect of these sites.

The present La Mesa Dam Eco-Park reflects all these amenities.

Simply visiting La Mesa Dam Eco-Park is already equivalent to saving the La Mesa Watershed, which is also the primary source of drinking water for about 12 million Metro Manila residents. It consists of 2,000 hectares of surrounding forest and 700 hectares of reservoir, and its forests serve as lungs of Metro Manila, providing clean air.

This bill seeks to provide a development plan that aims to rehabilitate, reforest, preserve, and protect the La Mesa Watershed while at the same time promoting its highest tourism potential and value, thereby providing jobs for its residents and revenue for the local government.

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


REP. PM VARGAS
Fifth District, Quezon City

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**DECLARING LA MESA DAM ECOPARK IN BARANGAY FAIRVIEW,
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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 "*La Mesa Ecopark Tourism Site Act*".

SECTION 2. Tourism Site. - The La Mesa Dam Eco-Park in Barangay Fairview, Quezon City is hereby declared a tourism site. As such, it shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourism sites.

SECTION 3. Development Plan. - The DOT, coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and other concerned agencies of government shall, within one (1) year from the approval of this Act, prepare a development plan involving construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure as shall enhance tourism in said are, provided, that said development plan shall ensure the preservation of the natural beauty and historical significance of the area.

SECTION 4. Implementing Agency. - The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement said development plan with the Quezon City Local Government and shall incorporate the same in the Department's overall tourism development program for the year following the approval of this Act.

SECTION 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Tourism, in consultation with relevant local government units, shall issue the necessary rules and

regulations to implement this Act.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,