

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4124



Introduced by Representative Richard I. Gomez, DPA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Municipality of Kananga, situated in the Province of Leyte, Philippines, is leading our nation in the field of renewable energy. For decades, Kananga has been host to three (3) (four (4) geothermal power plants, all operated by the Energy Development Corporation (EDC). The Upper Mahiao Geothermal Power Plant has an installed capacity of 112.079 (125) megawatts (MW), the Leyte Optimization Plant – 30.000 MW, the Malitbog Geothermal Power Plant with 232.614 (232.5) MW (67%) with a Bottoming Cycle Geothermal Power Plant of 16 MW and the Tongonan (I) Geothermal Power Plant - Green Core Geothermal Incorporated a former 112.5 MW upgraded to 123 MW, for a grand total of 497.693 (496.614) MW of clean, renewable geothermal power supply. This translates to roughly 25.5% of the country’s total geothermal capacity.

Through the passage of Presidential Proclamation No. 1412, series of 1975, then-President Ferdinand Marcos, Sr. initiated efforts to explore, develop, and utilize geothermal fields in Leyte, recognizing the immense potential of this baseload renewable energy source. This foresight laid the foundation for the establishment of what are now the Geothermal Power Plants in Kananga, the largest geothermal production steam fields in the Philippines. Kananga is also the home of the Malitbog Geothermal Power Plant, which is the world’s largest geothermal power plant with 232.5 MW installed capacity under in one roof in the entire world.

Geothermal energy is a vital component of the Philippines' energy mix, providing a clean, sustainable, and reliable source of power. This has proven to be, not only as a source of climate-friendly energy but one that is resilient in the face of the global fluctuations in energy prices.

Locally, the unified geothermal power plants in Kananga have brought about substantial economic benefits, creating employment opportunities, stimulating local businesses, and fostering socio-economic growth in Visayas, Luzon and Mindanao the province. They have stood as beacons of stringent environmental standards, and leadership in environmental stewardship and cooperation with the surrounding LGUs.

Moreover, Kananga serves as a hub for education and research in the field of geothermal energy. Academic institutions and research organizations collaborate with industry stakeholders to enhance knowledge and innovation in geothermal technology, furthering the sustainable development of the energy sector.

This bill seeks to recognize the Municipality of Kananga as the “Geothermal Capital of the Philippines,” as a testament to its role in the advancement of geothermal energy technology in the country. This designation

not only recognizes Kananga's significant contributions to the nation's energy security but also its commitment to sustainable development and environmental conservation.

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



RICHARD I. GOMEZ, DPA

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AN ACT
NAMING THE MUNICIPALITY OF KANANGA IN THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE AS THE
GEOTHERMAL CAPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to: (a) protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature; and (b) promote industrialization through industries that make full and efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are competitive in both domestic and foreign markets.

Towards this end, the State hereby recognizes the critical role of the production of geothermal energy as a key driver for balanced economic growth and sustainable development, specifically the fulfillment of Sustainable Development Goal No.7 on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.

SEC. 2. Geothermal Energy Capital of the Philippines. – In recognition of its status as the country’s biggest producer of geothermal energy and home to Malitbog Geothermal Power Plant - the largest MW capacity geothermal power plant in one single roof in the world, the Municipality of Kananga, located in the Province of Leyte, Philippines, is hereby declared as the Geothermal Capital of the Philippines.

SEC. 3. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,