



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. **5284**

Introduced by **HON. USTADZ YUSOP T. ALANO** of the Lone District of Basilan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

Malamawi Island is a small island in the Province of Basilan, with a long stretch of white sandy beach on its northern coast. It is one kilometer away from the City of Isabela, Province of Basilan. The island has an exotic appeal, idyllic natural beauty and serenity, and is home to indigenous communities with unique and colorful cultural heritage. Because of its crystal blue waters, refined white sand, breathtaking sceneries, and wonderful people, Malamawi Island has drawn tourists and visitors making this part of Basilan a jewel of its tourism industry.

Cognizant of its importance to the overall development of Isabela City and Basilan Province as a whole, the local government unit has poured programs and projects to the island and its communities to bolster its capacity to accommodate visitors and improve the lives of its people, and enrich visitor and tourist experience.

Most importantly, beyond drawing more guests and visitors, the move to declare Malamawi Island an eco-tourism zone will elevate the promotion and implementation of a

sustainable tourism industry, one that will benefit not only foster economic development, but also the development and protection of its cultural and environmental significance.

This bill was originally filed in the House of Representatives during the Nineteenth Congress and was subsequently approved on Third Reading on February 23, 2023.

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



USTADZ YUSOP T. ALANO

Representative

Lone District of Basilan



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5284**

Introduced by **HON. USTADZ YUSOP T. ALANO** of the Lone District of Basilan

1 **AN ACT**
2 **DECLARING THE MALAMAWI ISLAND IN THE CITY OF ISABELA,**
3 **PROVINCE OF BASILAN, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE**
4

5 *Be it enacted by the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
6 *assembled:*
7

8 **SECTION 1.** The Malamawi Island in the City of Isabela, Province of Basilan, is
9 hereby declared an ecotourism zone. Pursuant thereto, its development shall be prioritized and
10 supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing
11 the development of ecotourism zones.

12 **SEC. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the local government of the
13 City of Isabela, in coordination with the DOT, Department of Environment and Natural
14 Resources (DENR) and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development
15 plan that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate
16 infrastructure and facilities to enhance tourism in the area: Provided, That said development
17 plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the
18 area: Provided, further, That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be
19 included in the budget of the local government of the City of Isabela.

1 **SEC. 3.** The DOT shall assist the local government of the City of Isabela in the
2 implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism
3 capacity building. It shall also include the Malamawi Island in its national and regional
4 promotion programs.

5 **SEC. 4.** The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual
6 budget of the local government of the City of Isabela. The DOT may augment such allocation
7 with internally-generated funds.

8 **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the local government of
9 the City of Isabela shall, in consultation with the DOT and concerned agencies of the
10 government, promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.

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

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

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

Approved,