



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. **5285**

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

Lampinigan Island is one of the jewels of Basilan tucked within the jurisdiction of the province's capital city. It has a long stretch of white sand beaches and pristine waters. It is located in the barangay with the same name, and is home to a small community with over 300 households.

The island is a premier tourism spot in Isabela City that is being frequented by thousands of visitors both foreign and local every year. As far as white beaches go, Lampinigan Island is said to be one of the best white beaches in the country, at par with more popular ones such as Boracay Island.

Tourism in the island is a booming industry that provides livelihood not only to the community of Barangay Lampinigan, but to residents of Isabela City and nearby municipalities. The local economy benefits from the influx of local and foreign tourists in the island.

This is the reason behind this measure. Lampingigan Island can be so much more given the right development. This bill is envisioned to develop the tourism hotspot as a world-class destination by declaring it as an ecotourism zone.

It also aims to ensure the development and protection of the area, provide livelihood boost tourism, maintain the natural beauty and preserve the resources therein. It requires a planned and sustainable development to enhance and preserve its natural and unspoiled beauty.

This bill was originally filed in the House of Representatives during the Nineteenth Congress and was subsequently approved on Third Reading on March 19, 2024.

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

USTADZ YUSOP T. ALANO

Representative

Lone District of Basilan



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

4
5 *Be it enacted by the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
6 *assembled:*

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8 SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Lampinigan Ecotourism
9 Zone Act.”

10 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote
11 a sustainable and effective tourism industry to attract tourists, both local and foreign. Towards
12 this end, the country shall rationalize all efforts to make the tourism industry a major source of
13 livelihood and an avenue for economic development. Moreover, measures shall be taken to
14 ensure that tourism development is consistent with the national policy of protecting and
15 conserving the natural environment thereat.

16 SEC. 3. **Lampinigan Ecotourism Zone.** – The Lampinigan Island in the City of Isabela,
17 Province of Basilan, is hereby declared an ecotourism zone. Pursuant thereto, its development
18 shall be prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules
19 and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.

1 SEC. 4. ***Lampinigan Ecotourism Development Plan.*** – Within one (1) year after the
2 approval of this Act, the local government of the City of Isabela shall, in coordination with the
3 DOT, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Office of the District
4 Representative of the Lone District of Basilan, and concerned agencies of the government and
5 civil society organizations, prepare the Lampinigan Ecotourism Development Plan that shall
6 include the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate infrastructure and
7 facilities to enhance tourism in the area: Provided, That said development plan shall ensure the
8 preservation and conservation of the natural beauty, resources, and indigenous nature of the
9 locality: Provided, further, That the implementation of the development plan shall be included
10 in the budget of the local government of the City of Isabela.

11 SEC. 5. ***Lampinigan Ecotourism Board.*** – There is hereby created the Lampinigan
12 Ecotourism Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of the
13 following members:

- 14 (a) Mayor of the City of Isabela, as Chairperson;
- 15 (b) A representative from the DOT, as Vice Chairperson;
- 16 (c) A representative from the DENR, as Co-Vice Chairperson;
- 17 (d) Representative of the Lone District of Basilan, or a duly authorized representative;
- 18 (e) City Tourism Officer;
- 19 (f) City Environment and Natural Resources Officer;
- 20 (g) A representative from an accredited non-government organization with tourism
21 and/or environmental advocacy;
- 22 (h) A representative from an academic institution; and
- 23 (i) A representative from the business sector.

24 The local government of the City of Isabela shall provide a Secretariat for the Board
25 including the necessary expenses in the performance of their official functions and activities.

1 The Board shall ensure that the Lampinigan Ecotourism Development Plan, as provided
2 for in Section 4 of this Act, is implemented and that any program, project and activity in
3 Lampinigan Island is in accordance thereto.

4 Furthermore, the Board is hereby authorized to propose additions and/or amendments
5 to the said development plan, as necessary.

6 SEC. 6. ***Role of the DOT.*** – The DOT shall assist the local government of the City of
7 Isabela in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical
8 assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include the Lampinigan Island in its
9 national and regional promotion programs.

10 SEC. 7. ***Appropriations.*** – The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be
11 included in the annual budget of the local government of the City of Isabela. The DOT through
12 the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), if necessary, may include
13 such allocation in the TIEZA's program.

14 SEC. 8. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the
15 effectivity of this Act, the local government of the City of Isabela shall, in consultation with
16 the DOT, DENR, and concerned agencies of the government, promulgate the rules and
17 regulations to implement this Act.

18 SEC. 9. ***Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional
19 or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

20 SEC. 10. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees, and
21 other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed
22 or amended accordingly.

23 SEC. 11. ***Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
24 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

 Approved,