

1 Republic of the Philippines
2 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
3 Quezon City

4
5 **TWENTIETH CONGRESS**
6 1st Regular Session
7

8 HOUSE BILL NO: **6088**
9



10
11 Introduced by **REP. REYNALDO P. SALVACION**
12

13
14 **EXPLANATORY NOTE**
15

16 Tourism is recognized as a key driver of inclusive economic growth, cultural
17 enrichment, and environmental stewardship. Within this context, ecotourism—a
18 form of responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and
19 improves the well-being of local people—offers a sustainable model for
20 development, especially in provinces rich in natural and cultural resources.
21

22 The Province of Marinduque is home to a diverse range of ecotourism assets,
23 including unspoiled beaches, mountains, caves, waterfalls, marine sanctuaries, and
24 historical and cultural landmarks. It is also known for unique artistic expressions,
25 such as the world-renowned *Moriones* Festival. However, despite its promising
26 potential, Marinduque's ecotourism sector remains untapped and inadequately
27 protected, lacking a comprehensive framework for sustainable development and
28 promotion.
29

30 This bill proposes the establishment of a **Comprehensive Ecotourism**
31 **Preservation and Promotion Program in the Province of Marinduque**. The
32 objectives of this program include:
33

- 34 a. *Conservation of Natural Resources* – Formulating and implementing measures
35 to protect and sustainably manage Marinduque's natural attractions and
36 biodiversity;
37

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16
17 **AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE ECOTOURISM**
18 **PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION PROGRAM IN THE**
19 **PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE AND DECLARING SUPPORT FOR**
20 **LOCAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND PROVIDING FUNDS**
21 **THEREFOR**
22

23 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
24 *assembled:*
25

26 ***Section 1. Short Title.*** This Act shall be known as the “Marinduque
27 Ecotourism and Local Tourism Development Act.”
28

29 ***Section 2. Declaration of Policies.*** It is hereby declared the policy of the
30 State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful
31 ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Towards this end, the
32 State shall: (1) Preserve and promote the natural beauty, cultural heritage, and
33 environmental integrity of Marinduque; (2) Support the sustainable development of
34 ecotourism as a tool for economic growth, environmental protection, and social
35 development; (3) Empower local communities in Marinduque to actively participate
36 in tourism-related activities and programs; and (4) Foster the collaboration between
37 the local government, private sector, and community-based organizations in the
38 promotion of Marinduque’s tourism resources in an ecologically sustainable manner.

1
2 **Section 3. Definition of Terms.** For the purposes of this Act, the following
3 terms shall be defined as:
4

- 5 a) *Ecotourism* – responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the
6 environment, sustains the well-being of local people, and involves
7 interpretation and education of both staff and guests.
8
9 b) *Local Tourism* – tourism that is focused on promoting the culture, traditions,
10 and heritage of the province of Marinduque.
11
12 c) *Sustainable Tourism* – tourism that meets the needs of present tourists and host
13 regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future
14 generations and the generations yet unborn.
15
16 d) *Community-based Ecotourism* – ecotourism initiatives that are managed and led
17 by local communities, ensuring that a portion of the economic benefits
18 directly supports local livelihoods and cultural practices.
19
20 e) *Marinduque Ecotourism Zone* – designated areas within the province of
21 Marinduque identified as having high potential for sustainable ecotourism
22 development.
23

24 **Section 4. Establishment of the Marinduque Ecotourism and Local**
25 **Tourism Development Program.** There is hereby created the Marinduque
26 Ecotourism and Local Tourism Development Program, which will:
27

- 28 a) Identify and preserve ecotourism zones in Marinduque;
29
30 b) Develop guidelines for sustainable tourism activities to ensure minimal
31 environmental impact;
32
33 c) Promote ecotourism activities that highlight the province's natural
34 attractions, such as its beaches, forests, mountains, and wildlife, as well
35 as its cultural heritage, festivals, and historical sites;
36
37 d) Support the creation of ecotourism business ventures that benefit local
38 communities; and

- 1 e) Enhance the training and capacity-building of local communities in
2 ecotourism management, hospitality services, and environmental
3 stewardship.
4

5 The program will be administered by the Department of Tourism (DOT), in
6 partnership with the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Marinduque, the
7 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and other relevant
8 stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private
9 sector.
10

11 ***Section 5. Creation of the Marinduque Ecotourism Council.*** A
12 Marinduque Ecotourism Council is hereby established, composed of:
13

- 14 a) The Governor of Marinduque, as Chairperson;
15
16 b) The Secretary of the DOT, or his/her representative;
17
18 c) The Director of the DENR, or his/her representative;
19
20 d) Two (2) representatives from the local community organizations;
21
22 e) Representative of the indigenous groups;
23
24 f) Representative from the private tourism sector; and
25
26 g) Two (2) representatives from tourism and environmental NGOs.
27

28 ***Section 6. Powers and Functions of the Committee.*** The Marinduque
29 Ecotourism Council shall have the following powers and functions:
30

- 31 a) To oversee the implementation of the Marinduque Ecotourism and
32 Local Tourism Development Program;
33
34 b) To ensure that ecotourism initiatives are in line with sustainable
35 development principles and the needs of local communities;
36

- 1 c) To monitor the impact of tourism on the province's ecosystems and
2 cultural heritage.

3
4 ***Section 7. Promotion and Marketing.*** The Marinduque Ecotourism
5 Council, in coordination with the Department of Tourism, shall:
6

- 7 a) Develop a comprehensive marketing plan for Marinduque's
8 ecotourism and local tourism attractions;
9
10 b) Organize trade fairs, travel expos, and online marketing campaigns to
11 promote Marinduque as an ecotourism destination;
12
13 c) Ensure that all marketing materials are aligned with the principles of
14 sustainability, respect for local culture, and environmental protection.
15

16 ***Section 8. Training and Capacity-Building.*** The Department of Tourism,
17 in collaboration with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and local
18 educational institutions, shall:
19

- 20 a) Develop a training curriculum for local tourism stakeholders, including
21 guides, hoteliers, and tour operators, focusing on sustainable tourism
22 practices, customer service, and environmental conservation;
23
24 b) Provide scholarships and financial aid to qualified residents of
25 Marinduque pursuing careers in the tourism and hospitality industries.
26

27 ***Section 9. Monitoring and Evaluation.*** The Marinduque Ecotourism
28 Council shall regularly monitor and assess the progress of the Marinduque
29 Ecotourism and Local Tourism Development Program, ensuring that it meets its
30 objectives of sustainable development, community empowerment, and
31 environmental protection.
32

33 The Department of Tourism, in coordination with the DENR, shall conduct
34 annual audits of all ecotourism operations within the province to ensure compliance
35 with environmental laws and regulations.
36

37 ***Section 10. Incentives for Ecotourism Entrepreneurs.*** To encourage local
38 entrepreneurship in ecotourism, the national government shall provide tax

1 incentives, grants, and soft loans to individuals, cooperatives, and businesses that
2 develop ecotourism ventures, provided these ventures comply with environmental
3 sustainability standards and local cultural preservation.

4
5 The LGUs shall also provide additional incentives, such as reduced business
6 permit fees and subsidies for infrastructure development related to ecotourism.

7
8 **Section 11. Penalties.** Any person, organization, or business entity that
9 violates the provisions of this Act or engages in ecotourism activities that cause
10 significant harm to the environment, cultural heritage, or local communities shall be
11 subject to penalties, including fines, suspension or revocation of permits, and other
12 legal actions as determined by the appropriate authorities.

13
14 **Section 12. Funding.** The sum of [Insert Amount] is hereby allocated from
15 the national budget, under the Department of Tourism (DOT), for the
16 implementation of the Marinduque Ecotourism and Local Tourism Development
17 Program.

18
19 The LGU of Marinduque shall allocate funds to support the local initiatives
20 under this program.

21
22 Additional funds may be sourced from local and international grant-making
23 bodies, private investors, and tourism partnerships.

24
25 **Section 13. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Act is found to be
26 invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act shall remain in full force and
27 effect.

28
29 **Section 14. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and
30 regulations or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
31 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

32
33 **Section 15. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days after
34 its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

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37 *Approved,*
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