

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6607



Introduced by: Hon. Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan

AN ACT
DECLARING CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE DEMONSTRATION FARM AND ECO PARK IN
BARANGAY BUKAL MALIGAYA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUINAYANGAN, PROVINCE OF
QUEZON AS ECO-TOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 16 of the Constitution provides that *"The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature."*

The Climate Smart Agriculture Demonstration Farm and Eco Park is located in Barangay Bukal Maligaya, Guinayangan, Quezon. It was established as a response to the need for context-specific solutions to climate risks, particularly to enable farmers to utilize experiential learning to weather the challenges posed by climate change and significantly improve food security in local communities in the face of heightened risks to agriculture-based livelihood due to changing climate.

Currently, it houses various farm facilities such as the green house, vermicomposting facility, tilapia breeding center, poultries, goat area; and native pig farm. The Climate Smart Agriculture Demonstration Farm and Eco Park has an abundant supply of cacao, dragon fruit, coconut dwarf, guyabano, banana, and cassava. It also features the utilization of Sloping Agriculture Land Technology (SALT), which is a package technology of soil conservation and food production, integrating differing soil conservation measures in just one setting where calamansi and black pepper with madre de cacao are grown as permanent crops.

This bill seeks to declare the Climate Smart Agriculture Demonstration Farm and Eco Park as eco-tourism site, which is hoped to help facilitate the growth and promotion of tourism in Quezon and the CALABARZON. It will also ensure that the rich biological diversity in the area is protected and preserved. Also, its growth as an eco-tourism destination will significantly support the local economy by providing employment and trade opportunities

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

Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan
4th District, Quezon

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THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Climate Smart Agriculture Demonstration Farm and Eco Park Eco-Tourism Zone Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable and equitably beneficial to local communities.

SEC. 3. *Climate Smart Agriculture Demonstration Farm and Eco Park Eco-Tourism Zone.* - The Climate Smart Agriculture Demonstration Farm and Eco Park located in Barangay Bukal Maligaya in the Municipality of Guinayangan, Province of Quezon is hereby declared an eco-tourism zone. Its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.

The DOT shall prepare the development plan for the Climate Smart Agriculture Demonstration Farm and Eco Park and shall incorporate the same in the overall National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP), pursuant to Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as "The Tourism Act of 2009". The Plan shall be implemented jointly with the Municipality of Guinayangan, the local Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), and the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA).

The DOT, in coordination with the Municipality of Guinayangan, the PAMB, the TIEZA, and other concerned agencies of government, shall identify well defined areas within the Climate Smart Agriculture Demonstration Farm and Eco Park and ensure the integrated development of these areas for the optimum utilization of natural assets and

attractions, as well as the preservation of their historic significance.

SEC. 4. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of Tourism shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Tourism, in consultation with the Municipality of Guinayangan, the PAMB and the TIEZA, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,