

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 404

Submitted by the Committees on Tourism and Appropriations on June 1, 2026
Re : House Bill No. 9546
Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2088
Sponsors: Representatives Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing,
and Antonio "Tonypet" T. Albano

Mr. Speaker:

The Committees on Tourism and Appropriations to which was referred House Bill No. 2088, introduced by Representative Antonio "Tonypet" T. Albano, entitled:

AN ACT
DECLARING THE MALASI TREE PARK AND WILDLIFE
SANCTUARY LOCATED IN BARANGAY SAN ANTONIO,
MUNICIPALITY OF CABAGAN, PROVINCE OF ISABELA, AN
ECOTOURISM ZONE

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 9546,
entitled:

AN ACT
DECLARING THE MALASI TREE PARK AND WILDLIFE
SANCTUARY, LOCATED IN BARANGAY SAN ANTONIO,
MUNICIPALITY OF CABAGAN, PROVINCE OF ISABELA, AS AN
ECOTOURISM ZONE

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 2088 with Representatives Antonio "Tonypet" T. Albano, Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Junard "Ahong" Q. Chan, Rosalie Ang Salvame, Rommel Rico T. Angara, Jose C. Alvarez, Elisa "Olga" T. Kho, Dibu S. Tuan, Florencio T. Miraflores, Tsuyoshi Anthony "Hori" G. Horibata, John Geesnell "Baba" Yap, Caroline B. Agyao, MD, Ustadz Yusop T. Alano, Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Romeo S. Momo, Sr., Ronald V. Singson, Patricia C. Calderon, Rebecca Maria Alcantara Ynares, Dale B. Corvera, Celso G. Regencia, Jane T. Castro, Alyssa Michaela "Mica" M. Gonzales, Binky April M. Tupas, Salvador A. Pleyto, Marlo C. Bancoro, Eulogio "Leo" R. Rodriguez, Ferdinand "B1" L. Beltran, Niko Raul S.J. Daza, Rachel Marguerite B. Del Mar, Howard A. Guintu, Angelo Marcos Barba,

John Tracy F. Cagas, Timothy Joseph E. Cayton, King Collantes, Antonino B. Roman III, Laarni Lavin Roque, Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., and Lordan G. Suan as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



REP. MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations



REP. ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA
Chairperson
Committee on Tourism

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9546
(In substitution of House Bill No. 2088)

Introduced by Representatives Antonio “Tonypet” T. Albano, Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Junard “Ahong” Q. Chan, Rosalie Ang Salvame, Rommel Rico T. Angara, Jose C. Alvarez, Elisa “Olga” T. Kho, Dibu S. Tuan, Florencio T. Miraflores, Tsuyoshi Anthony “Hori” G. Horibata, John Geesnell “Baba” Yap, Caroline B. Agyao, MD, Ustadz Yusop T. Alano, Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Romeo S. Momo, Sr., Ronald V. Singson, Patricia C. Calderon, Rebecca Maria Alcantara Ynares, Dale B. Corvera, Celso G. Regencia, Jane T. Castro, Alyssa Michaela “Mica” M. Gonzales, Binky April M. Tupas, Salvador A. Pleyto, Marlo C. Bancoro, Eulogio “Leo” R. Rodriguez, Ferdinand “B1” L. Beltran, Niko Raul S.J. Daza, Rachel Marguerite B. Del Mar, Howard A. Guintu, Angelo Marcos Barba, John Tracy F. Cagas, Timothy Joseph E. Cayton, King Collantes, Antonino B. Roman III, Laarni Lavin Roque, Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., and Lordan G. Suan

AN ACT
DECLARING THE MALASI TREE PARK AND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY,
LOCATED IN BARANGAY SAN ANTONIO, MUNICIPALITY OF CABAGAN,
PROVINCE OF ISABELA, AS AN ECOTOURISM ZONE

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

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The Malasi Tree Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, located in
2 Barangay San Antonio, Municipality of Cabagan, Province of Isabela, is hereby
3 declared an ecotourism zone. Pursuant thereto, its development shall be prioritized
4 and supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and
5 regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.

1 **SEC. 2.** The Malasi Tree Park and Wildlife Sanctuary Development Council,
2 hereinafter referred to as the Council, is hereby created. It shall be composed of
3 fifteen (15) members, as follows:

4 a) *Ex Officio* Members

- 5 1) Mayor of the Municipality of Cabagan, as Chairperson;
- 6 2) Head of the Municipal Tourism Office of the Municipality of Cabagan,
7 as Vice-Chairperson;
- 8 3) Head of the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office of
9 the Municipality of Cabagan;
- 10 4) Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer of Isabela;
- 11 5) Barangay Chairperson of Barangay San Antonio;
- 12 6) Director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of
13 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
- 14 7) Chief Operating Officer of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise
15 Zone Authority (TIEZA);
- 16 8) Regional Director of DOT-Region II;
- 17 9) Regional Director of DENR-Region II;
- 18 10) Regional Director of the Department of Public Works and Highways-
19 Region II;
- 20 11) DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer of
21 Isabela; and
- 22 12) Chairperson of the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
23 Management Council of the Municipality of Cabagan.

24 b) Sectoral Members

- 1) One (1) representative from an academic institution, preferably from a university or college in the Province of Isabela, with proven track record in or related to ecotourism and critical habitat management;
- 2) One (1) representative from the private sector, preferably a resident of the Province of Isabela, who is distinguished in a profession or field of interest relevant to ecotourism and critical habitat management; and
- 3) One (1) representative from either a non-governmental organization (NGO) or a people's organization (PO) duly accredited both by the DENR and the Provincial Government of Isabela. The NGO or PO represented should have been in existence for at least five (5) years with proven track record in or related to ecotourism or critical habitat management.

The *ex officio* elective members of the Council shall serve for the duration of their respective terms of office to which they are elected.

The *ex officio* appointive members of the Council shall serve for the duration of the period they hold the office to which they are appointed.

The sectoral members of the Council shall be selected by the *ex officio* members in a fair and transparent manner. They shall each serve a term of three (3) years and may be reappointed for another term.

The members of the Council shall serve without compensation, but shall be authorized to actual and necessary traveling and subsistence expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, either in their attendance in meetings of the Council or in connection with other official business authorized by a resolution of the Council, subject to existing rules and regulations. Each member shall have the full capacity and accountability for decisions binding to the member's sector.

1 The Municipal Government of Cabagan shall provide a Secretariat for the
2 Council and the necessary funds to defray the expenses to be incurred by the
3 Secretariat in the performance of its duties and responsibilities.

4 **SEC. 3.** The Council shall have the following functions:

- 5 a) Formulate and implement the Malasi Tree Park and Wildlife Sanctuary
6 Development Plan, in consultation with the local residents, businesses,
7 and other stakeholders;
- 8 b) Assess and evaluate the potential impact of the development to the
9 environmental safety and well-being of the ecotourism zone, communities,
10 and enterprises;
- 11 c) Provide technical and financial assistance to the communities within the
12 ecotourism zone;
- 13 d) Formulate rules and regulations in relation to the maintenance and
14 security of the ecotourism zone; and
- 15 e) Perform other functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of
16 this Act.

17 **SEC. 4.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the Council shall
18 prepare the Malasi Tree Park and Wildlife Sanctuary Development Plan to enhance
19 tourism in the area and ensure that the existing ecosystems, endemic wildlife
20 species, as well as migratory species, and naturally occurring flora and fauna and
21 their habitats, are preserved and protected. The Development Plan shall be
22 formulated and implemented in accordance with the Malasi Tree Park and Wildlife
23 Sanctuary Critical Habitat Management Plan and pursuant to the provisions of
24 Republic Act. No. 9147, also known as the *“Wildlife Resources Conservation and*
25 *Protection Act.”*

1 **SEC. 5.** The joint responsibility over the management of the Malasi Tree Park
2 and Wildlife Sanctuary Critical Habitat as mandated under DENR Administrative
3 Order No. 2012-01 shall be transferred from the DENR Region II Office and the
4 Municipal Government of Cabagan, to the Council. For this purpose, the DENR
5 Region II Office and the Municipal Government of Cabagan shall coordinate with the
6 Council and provide the necessary technical assistance to ensure the continued
7 implementation of the Critical Habitat Management Plan.

8 The transfer of management of the Malasi Tree Park and Wildlife Sanctuary
9 Critical Habitat shall include all applicable funds, records, property, assets, liabilities,
10 equipment, and personnel: *Provided*, That all personnel presently employed by the
11 DENR-Region II Office and the Municipal Government of Cabagan for the purpose
12 shall continue their service without diminution of rank, base pay, allowance, and
13 other benefits authorized under existing laws.

14 **SEC. 6.** The DOT shall assist the Council in the implementation of the
15 development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It
16 shall also include the Malasi Tree Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in its national and
17 regional promotion programs.

18 **SEC. 7.** The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the
19 annual budget of the Municipal Government of Cabagan. The DOT may augment
20 such allocation with internally generated funds.

21 **SEC. 8.** Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Council
22 shall, in consultation with the Municipal Government of Cabagan, DOT, DENR, and
23 concerned agencies of the government, promulgate the rules and regulations to
24 implement this Act.

25 **SEC. 9.** If any provision or part of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional
26 or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and

1 effect.

2 **SEC. 10.** All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, presidential decrees,
3 or other issuances contrary to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act
4 are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

5 **SEC. 11.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
6 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

7 Approved,