



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9515

BY REPRESENTATIVES GONZALES (A.M.), MADRONA, SUANSING (M.A.), CHAN (J.), SALVAME, ANGARA, ALVAREZ (J.), KHO (E.), TUAN, MIRAFLORES, HORIBATA, YAP (J.G.), AGYAO, ALANO, DALOG, MOMO, SINGSON (R.V.), CALDERON, YNARES, CORVERA, REGENCIA, CASTRO, TUPAS, PLEYTO, BANCORO, RODRIGUEZ (E.), BELTRAN, DAZA, GUINTU, BARBA, CAGAS, CAYTON, COLLANTES, ROMAN, ROQUE, UMALI AND SUAN

AN ACT
DECLARING MOUNT ARAYAT, LOCATED ALONG THE BORDERS OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ARAYAT AND MAGALANG, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA, AS AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The Mount Arayat, located along the borders of the Municipalities of Arayat
2 and Magalang, Province of Pampanga, is hereby declared an ecotourism destination. Pursuant
3 thereto, its development shall be prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT),
4 subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism destinations.

5 **SEC. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the Municipal Governments of
6 Arayat and Magalang shall, in coordination with the DOT, Department of Environment and
7 Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Public Works and Highways, the Provincial
8 Government of Pampanga, and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism

1 development plan that shall include the construction, installation, and maintenance of such
2 appropriate infrastructure and facilities to enhance ecotourism in the area and ensure its
3 accessibility and the security of tourists: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the
4 preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the area: *Provided, further*,
5 That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the
6 Municipal Governments of Arayat and Magalang.

7 **SEC. 3.** The DOT shall assist the Municipal Governments of Arayat and Magalang in the
8 implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism
9 capacity building. It shall also include Mount Arayat in all its national and regional promotion
10 programs.

11 **SEC. 4.** The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual
12 budgets of the Municipal Governments of Arayat and Magalang. The DOT may augment such
13 allocation with internally generated funds.

14 **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Municipal Governments
15 of Arayat and Magalang shall, in consultation with the DOT, DENR, the Provincial Government
16 of Pampanga, and concerned agencies of the government, promulgate the rules and regulations to
17 implement this Act.

18 For this purpose, they shall have the power and authority to create a Secretariat and
19 Technical Working Group (TWG) to assist them in the drafting of the necessary rules and
20 regulations: *Provided*, That the Provincial Government of Pampanga shall defray the necessary
21 expenses of the Secretariat and the TWG for the performance of their official functions and
22 activities.

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

3 **SEC. 7.** All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, proclamations, presidential decrees,
4 and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed
5 or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,