



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7509

BY REPRESENTATIVES DELOSO-MONTALLA AND NOGRALES (K.A.),
PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 720

AN ACT DECLARING MT. TAPULAO IN THE MUNICIPALITY
OF PALAUIG, PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES AN
ECOTOURISM ZONE AND FOREST RESERVE, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the
2 policy of the State to promote a safe and sustainable ecotourism
3 industry to attract local and foreign tourists.

4 SEC. 2. *Mt. Tapulao Ecotourism Zone and Forest Reserve.* –
5 The Mt. Tapulao in the Municipality of Palaui, Province of
6 Zambales is hereby declared an ecotourism zone. The area of five
7 thousand hectares (5,000 has.) of said mountain is hereby declared
8 as a forest reserve.

9 SEC. 3. *Mt. Tapulao Ecotourism Governing Board.* – An
10 ecotourism governing board, to be known as the Mt. Tapulao

Ecotourism Governing Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, is hereby created. It shall be composed of the following:

(a) The Governor of the Province of Zambales, as Chairperson;

(b) The Representative of the Second District of Zambales, as Cochairperson;

(c) The Secretaries of the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), or their duly authorized representatives;

(d) The Mayor of the Municipality of Palauig;

(e) A member of a nongovernment organization whose advocacy is environmental preservation;

(f) A member of the academe;

(g) A representative from the business sector; and

(h) A representative from the private sector.

The Board shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act by the concerned local government units, and shall, as the need arises, amend, modify or revise such rules and regulations to meet the needs of changing times.

SEC. 4. *Mt. Tapulao Ecotourism Master Plan.* - Within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, the DENR shall make an inventory of the existing flora and fauna in Mt. Tapulao that shall be considered in the preparation of a master plan for the purpose of this Act.

Within one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act, the DENR and the DOT shall develop a master plan, to be

1 approved by the President of the Republic of the Philippines, upon
2 the recommendation of the Board.

3 SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* - The Secretary of the DOT shall
4 include in the Department's program the implementation of this
5 Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
6 Appropriations Act and from internally generated funds of the DOT.

7 SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, rules, regulations,
8 executive orders, presidential decrees or other issuances contrary to
9 or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby
10 deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

11 SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this
12 Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining provisions which are
13 not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

14 SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
15 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any
16 newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

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