



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9192

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BY REPRESENTATIVES ALEJANO, CUEVA AND SY-ALVARADO, PER  
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1318

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AN ACT DECLARING PAG-ASA ISLAND AND ITS ADJOINING  
ISLANDS OF PAROLA, KOTA AND PANATA IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF KALAYAAN, PROVINCE OF  
PALAWAN AS ECOTOURISM DESTINATIONS AND  
PROTECTED AREAS 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 sustainable ecotourism industry to  
3 attract local and foreign tourists to secure the country's share in the  
4 world tourism market and to make it an avenue for generation of  
5 employment while ensuring the environmental protection and  
6 preservation of the area.

7           SEC. 2. *The Pag-asa Island Ecotourism Cluster.* – The  
8 Pag-asa Island and its adjoining islands of Parola, Kota and Panata,  
9 which shall be known as the Pag-asa Island Ecotourism Cluster, are

1 hereby declared ecotourism destinations and protected areas under  
2 the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS).

3 Within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, the  
4 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall  
5 make an inventory of the existing flora and fauna of the Pag-asa  
6 Island Ecotourism Cluster that shall serve as the basis for the  
7 creation of the development plan as provided in this Act.

8 As used in this Act, ecotourism shall refer to a form of  
9 sustainable tourism within a natural and cultural heritage area  
10 where community participation, protection and management of  
11 natural resources, culture and indigenous knowledge and practices,  
12 environmental education and ethics, and economic benefits are  
13 fostered and pursued for the enrichment of host communities and  
14 satisfaction of visitors.

15 SEC. 3. *Pag-asa Island Ecotourism Cluster Governing Board.*

16 - An ecotourism governing board, to be known as the Pag-asa  
17 Island Ecotourism Cluster Governing Board, hereinafter referred  
18 to as the Board, is hereby created. The Board shall be composed of  
19 the following:

20 (a) Governor of Palawan, as Chairperson;

21 (b) Congressional Representative of the First District of  
22 Palawan, as Co-Chairperson;

23 (c) DENR Regional Executive Director of Region IV-B, as  
24 Vice Chairperson;

25 (d) Department of Tourism (DOT) Regional Director for  
26 Region IV-B, as Co-Vice Chairperson;

27 (e) Mayor of the Municipality of Kalayaan;

- 1 (f) Barangay Chairperson of Pag-asa Island;
- 2 (g) Armed Forces of the Philippines Western Command
- 3 Commander;
- 4 (h) One (1) member of a nongovernment organization whose
- 5 advocacy is environmental preservation;
- 6 (i) One (1) member of the academe;
- 7 (j) One (1) representative of the business sector; and
- 8 (k) One (1) representative of the private sector.

9 The provincial government of Palawan shall provide a

10 Secretariat for the Board including the funding necessary to cover

11 the expenses for the performance of its official functions and

12 activities.

13 The Board shall prepare the rules and regulations necessary

14 for the full implementation by the concerned local government unit

15 of the provisions of this Act and shall, as the need arises, amend,

16 modify or revise such rules and regulations to meet the needs of

17 changing times.

18 SEC. 4. *Pag-asa Island Ecotourism Cluster Development*

19 *Plan.* – Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the approval of

20 this Act, the Board, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure

21 and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), shall prepare, develop and

22 implement a development plan to be approved by the President of

23 the Republic of the Philippines.

24 SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* – The Secretaries of the DOT,

25 DENR and the Chief Operating Officer of the TIEZA shall include

26 in their respective programs the implementation of this Act, the

1 funding of which shall be included in the annual General  
2 Appropriations Act and internally generated funds of the DOT.

3       SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any section or provision of  
4 this Act or any part hereof be declared unconstitutional or invalid,  
5 the same shall not affect the remaining sections and provisions  
6 otherwise considered as valid and legal.

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

Approved,

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