

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5952



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Introduced by: Congressman BIENVENIDO M. ABANTE, JR.

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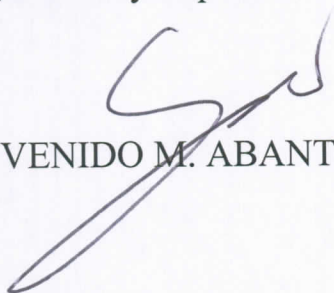
**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

One of the operative principles on the autonomy of local government units is for them to share with the national government the responsibility in the management and maintenance of ecological balance within their territorial jurisdiction.

The historic identity and value of parks of national significance and historic landmarks, such as, but not limited to, the Luneta National Park and Intramuros in the City of Manila, and Quezon Memorial National Park in Quezon City, should not be forgotten. On the contrary, these national heritage should be properly maintained, preserved and protected at all cost. Protecting, preserving and maintaining these parks of national significance and historic landmarks, including their cleanliness and peace and order therein, to ensure the full enjoyment thereof, is of utmost importance. In fact, even the Lord recognized and made clear the value and importance of ancient landmarks (Deu. 19:14; Prov. 22:28).

It is the humble view of the sponsor of this Bill that the administration, management and control of these parks and historic landmarks should be transferred to the local government units where they are located in order to give them the actual, direct and immediate responsibility of protecting, preserving and maintaining them. With a feeling of responsibility accountability and identity, the maintenance, preservation, proper use, cleanliness and enjoyment of these parks and historic landmarks would be better ensured.

The passage of this Bill is, therefore, earnestly requested.



BIENVENIDO M. ABANTE, JR.

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AN ACT

TRANSFERRING AND TURNING OVER TO LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT UNITS THE ADMINISTRATION, MANAGEMENT  
AND CONTROL OF PARKS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE AND  
HISTORIC LANDMARKS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSE.

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – To protect our national heritage, it is hereby declared the Policy of the State to give full meaning to the autonomy of local government units even on the matter of the administration, management and control of parks of national significance and historic landmarks, and to secure for the Filipino people of present and future generations the perpetual existence and use of such areas. The State recognizes that local government units are in a better position to protect, manage, maintain and preserve such areas within their respective territorial jurisdiction.

SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – **Parks** as used in this Act shall refer to parks of national significance characterized by the harmonious interaction of man and providing opportunities for public enjoyment



through the recreation and tourism within the normal lifestyle and economic activity of these areas, such as, but not limited to, the Luneta National Park in the City of Manila and the Quezon National Memorial Park and Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City.

**Historic landmarks** as used in this Act shall refer to areas, places or structures of historic importance and significance to the life of the Country and its people, such as, but not limited to, Intramuros in the City of Manila.

SEC. 3. *Administration, Management and Control.* The administration, management and control of all parks and historic landmarks as defined in this Act that are components of the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) and under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources under R.A. 7856, otherwise known as "National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992" and R.A. No. 11038, otherwise known as the "Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018", are hereby transferred and turned over to the local government units where such parks and historic landmarks are situated.

SEC. 4. *Transfer of Jurisdiction and Documents.* The local government unit concerned shall coordinate with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Protected Area Management Board for the smooth transfer of the administration, management and control of such parks and historic landmarks, including the transfer of records, documents and other papers pertinent thereto, which transfer shall be effected within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act.

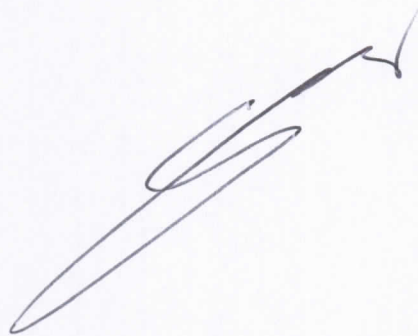
SEC. 5. *Promulgation of Rules and Regulations.* The local government unit concerned shall promulgate such ordinances, rules and regulations not contrary to law, public policy, morals and good customs for the protection and preservation of such parks and historic landmarks, and to ensure the proper, clean, and peaceful use and full enjoyment thereof.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or section of this Act is declared unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the other parts or sections of this Act.

SEC. 7 *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with any provisions of this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' or 'G' shape followed by a short horizontal line and a small upward tick at the end.