

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5264



Introduced by Representative Sol Aragones

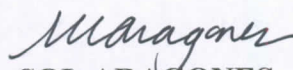
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Municipality of Rizal in the Province of Laguna is a 5th class municipality in the province of Laguna, Philippines. According to the 2015 census, it has a population of 17,253 people.

As a tourist destination, Rizal is known for the serene and breath-taking views of its vast nature and wildlife parks. Rizal is also known as a source of the freshest vegetables in the market. The vast land area of its parks and fertile lands have provided food and livelihood for its citizens for years. For the town to further improve economically and push for positive and sustainable development, its natural assets must be protected.

This proposal seeks to declare the Municipality of Rizal as an ecotourism zone and appropriate funds for the purpose. With the proposal to develop Rizal into an ecotourism zone, we hope to generate economic growth by providing employment opportunities through tourism activities among the residents of the municipality. Other tourism related industries will also spur further economic development in the area by providing local employment opportunities through hotels, resorts, restaurants, transportation services, souvenir shops, among others.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


SOL ARAGONES
3RD District, Laguna

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Introduced by Representative Sol Aragon

1 **AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF RIZAL, PROVINCE OF**
2 **LAGUNA, AS AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS**
3 **THEREFOR**

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

6 **SECTION 1.** *Declaring Rizal, Laguna as an Ecotourism Zone.* - The Municipality of
7 Rizal, Province of Laguna is hereby declared as an ecotourism zone. As such, priority
8 development of the Municipality of Rizal shall be made by the Department of Tourism (DOT)
9 and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourist zone.

10 **SECTION 2.** *Role of Agencies.* - The DOT, in coordination with the Tourism
11 Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and other concerned agencies of the government,
12 shall, within six (6) months after the approval of this Act, prepare the development plan
13 involving the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and
14 infrastructure which shall enhance tourism in the area: Provided, that said development plan
15 shall ensure the preservation of the natural beauty and historical significance thereof.

16 **SECTION 3.** *Secretary of Tourism.* - The Secretary of Tourism shall take immediate
17 steps to implement the said development plan and incorporate the same in the overall tourism
18 development program of the Department for the ensuing calendar year.

19 **SECTION 4.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Secretary of Tourism shall
20 issue the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

21 **SECTION 5.** *Appropriations.* - The amount needed for the immediate implementation
22 of this Act is hereby appropriated from the funds of the National Treasury not otherwise

1 appropriated. Thereafter sum as maybe needed for the continued implementation, operation
2 and maintenance shall be included in the annual General Appropriation Act.

3 **SECTION 6. *Effectivity.*** - This act shall take effect upon its approval.

4 *Approved.*