

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5266**



Introduced by Representative Sol Aragon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Municipality of Victoria in the Province of Laguna is a 4th class municipality in the province of Laguna, Philippines. According to the 2015 census, it has a population of 39,321 people.

As a tourist attraction, Victoria is known as the “Duck Raising Capital of the Philippines”. For decades, the town’s industry has benefitted so much in the existence of duck farms providing food and livelihood to its residents and unique delicacies to tourists. To further improve the industry and push the town towards positive and sustainable development, measures to protect the town’s assets must be carried out.

This proposal seeks to declare the Municipality of Victoria as an ecotourism zone and appropriate funds for the purpose. With the proposal to develop Victoria 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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1 **AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF VICTORIA, 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 Victoria, Laguna as an Ecotourism Zone.* - The Municipality
7 of Victoria, Province of Laguna is hereby declared as an ecotourism zone. As such, priority
8 development of the Municipality of Victoria shall be made by the Department of Tourism
9 (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourist
10 zone.

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

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

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

1 **SECTION 5. *Appropriations.*** - The amount needed for the immediate implementation
2 of this Act is hereby appropriated from the funds of the National Treasury not otherwise
3 appropriated. Thereafter sum as maybe needed for the continued implementation, operation
4 and maintenance shall be included in the annual General Appropriation Act.

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

6 *Approved.*