

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

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
**First Regular Session**

**House Bill No. 3258**

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Introduced by **DIWA Party-list Representative Emmeline Y. Aglipay – Villar**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Despite conventional wisdom, Metro Manila is not solely composed of steel and concrete. Local governments and communities have striven to create enclaves of nature even in the modern jungle of our nation's most urbanized metropolis. One such area, established in 2007, is the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area or LPPCHEA. The LPPCHEA is a nature reserve near Manila Bay, covering around 175 hectares of wetland ecosystem and open to the public for their enjoyment. An important resting and refueling stop for migratory birds using the East Asian-Australasian Migratory Flyway, LPPCHEA hosts around more than forty species of migratory birds, and in 2013 was recognized as a wetland of international importance by the Ramsar Convention because of the critical role it plays in the survival of threatened, restricted-range and congregatory bird species.<sup>1</sup>

However, maintaining such a reservation is fraught with difficulties, such as accumulation along the coast of waste and other effluents from nearby cities, mangrove cutting, as well as the proposed reclamation projects in Manila Bay.

To better protect this critical, beautiful habitat, this bill -- filed as a counterpart of Senate Bill No. 148 with the support of its author, Senator Cynthia Villar -- seeks to improve the protection, preservation and management of the Las Piñas – Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA), in fulfillment of the State's constitutional mandate to: "protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature"<sup>2</sup>.

*Emmeline Y. Aglipay*

**EMMELINE Y. AGLIPAY – VILLAR**  
Representative, DIWA Party-list

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<sup>1</sup> <http://ncr.denr.gov.ph/index.php/89-webpage/338-brochure>

<sup>2</sup> Article 2, Section 16, 1987 Philippine Constitution

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING THE LAS PIÑAS – PARAÑAQUE CRITICAL HABITAT AND**  
**ECOTOURISM AREA AS A WETLAND, ENSURING THE PROTECTION**  
**THEREOF, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER**  
**PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Short title. – This Act shall be known as the “*Las Piñas - Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area Act of 2016.*”

SEC. 2. Declaration of policy. – Pursuant to Section 16, Article II (State Policies) of the 1987 Philippine Constitution which makes it the obligation of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature, and to the policies of the *International Convention on the Conservation of Wetlands* (otherwise known as the “*Ramsar Convention*”), of which the Philippines is a signatory, relevant to the protection and sustainable development of foreshore areas, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect important and critical areas hosting vulnerable wildlife, and to preserve and sustain development of key biodiversity sites.

The comprising lagoons of Las Piñas and Parañaque, which support populations of the globally threatened Chinese Egret and Philippine Duck along with at least twenty-five (25) species of other rare and uncommon species of waterfowl, is hereby declared as a wetland and an ecotourism area.

SEC. 3. Definition of terms. – As used in this Act:

(a) “*Wetland*” shall refer to an area of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six (6) meters. A *wetland* may incorporate riparian and coastal zones adjacent to

wetlands, and islands or bodies of marine water deeper than six (6) meters at low tide lying within the *wetland*.

(b) “*Ecotourism*” refers to a form of sustainable tourism within a natural and cultural heritage area where community participation, protection and management of natural resources, culture and indigenous knowledge and practices, environmental education and ethics as well as economic benefits are fostered and pursued for the enrichment of host communities and satisfaction of visitors. For this purpose, the definition of *ecotourism* in Administrative Order No. 2013 -19 (issued on 01 July 2013) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, is hereby adopted.

(c) “*Protected Areas Systems*” refers to identified portions of land and water set aside by reason of their unique physical and biological significance, managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation pursuant to Republic Act No. 7586 otherwise known as the *National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992*.

SEC. 4. *The Las Piñas – Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area.* - The Las Piñas – Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area is hereby established covering one hundred seventy-five thousand three hundred seven hectares (175,307 hectares) with technical description as follows:

Line	Bearing	Distance
1-2	S.20°D 28'W.	131.54 M.
2-3	S.73°D.56'E	19.50 M.
3-4	S.02°D15'W	88.59 M.
4-5	2.26°D02'E.	28.97 M.
5-6	S.13°D48'W.	138.29 M.
6-7	S.20°D08'W	37.31 M.
7-8	S.14°D56'W.	110.33 M.
8-9	S.16°D32'W	52.11 M.
9-10	S.16°D32'W.	52.57 M.
10-11	S.18°D41'W.	113.32 M.

11-12	S.24%%D42'W.	99.58 M.
12-13	S.25%%D37'W.	65.28 M.
13-14	S.29%%D06'W	63.13 M.
14-15	S.30%%D34'W.	44.93 M.
15-16	S.31%%D28'W	42.68 M.
16-17	S.33%%D28'W	38.23 M.
17-18	S. 34%%D36'W.	50.93 M.
18-19	S.36%%D11'W.	41.39 M.
19-20	S.39%%D16'W.	67.80 M.
20-21	S.39%%D34'W.	31.81 M.
21-22	N.87%%D28'W.	216.46 M.
22-23	S.76%%D27'W.	7.94 M.
23-24	S.39%%D14'W.	121.05 M.
24-25	S.34%%D56'E.	54.28 M.
25-26	S.13%%D15'E.	130.81 M.
26-27	S.87%%D49'W	8.95 M.
27-28	S.07%%D06'W.	11.74 M.
28-29	S.41%%D30'W.	67.77 M.
29-30	S.12%%D38'W.	27.25 M.
30-31	S.30%%D52'E.	16.97 M.
31-32	S.09%%D.42'W	18.51 M.
32-33	S.21%%D27'W.	74.80 M.
33-34	S.21%%D41'W.	23.93 M.
34-35	S.36%%D41'W.	32.71 M.
35-36	S.34%%D15'W.	311.98 M.
36-37	S.33%%D52'W.	243.49 M.

38-39	S.36%%D02'W.	21.96 M.
39-40	S.36%%D25'W	20.34 M.
41-42	S.37%%D28'W.	21.08 M.
42-43	S.37%%D03'W.	10.34 M.
43-44	S.40%%D02'W	29.60 M.
44-45	S.40%%D36'W	20.53 M.
45-46	S.41%%D15'W	19.81 M.
46-47	S.41%%D31'W	20.32 M.
47-48	S.43%%D24'W	42.40 M.
48-49	S.44%%D16'W	20.86 M.
50-51	S.45%%D35'W.	21.66 M.
51-52	S.44%%D14'W	19.48 M.
52-53	S.48%%D43'W.	20.97 M.
53-54	S.48%%D17'W.	21.91 M.
54-55	S.48%%D18'W.	21.60 M.
55-56	S.48%%D44'W.	519.66 M.
56-57	N.67%%D41'W	106.26 M.
58-59	N.24%%D14'W	31.90 M.
59-60	N.10%%D58'W	29.68 M.
60-61	N.22%%D51'E	106.73 M.
61-62	N.26%%D37'E	139.26 M.
62-63	N.08%%D46'W	92.29 M.
63-64	N.73%%D23'W	9.93 M.
64-65	N.30%%D54'W	10.05 M.
65-66	N.00%%D47'W	20.57 M.
66-67	N.20%%D02'E	277.76 M.

67-68	N.27%%D16'E	99.63 M.
68-69	N.32%%D05'E	28.95 M.
69-70	N.19%%D00'E	33.55 M.
70-71	N.06%%D40'W	15.17 M.
71-72	N.38%%D08'W	42.23 M.
72-73	N.29%%D16'E	154.46 M.
73-74	N.31%%D03'E	79.75 M.
74-75	N.35%%D10'E	149.23 M.
75-76	N.37%%D54'E	137.34 M.
76-77	N.32%%D30'E	230.47 M.
77-78	N.38%%D01'3	237.39 M.
78-79	N.69%%D08'E	53.32 M.
79-80	N.89%%D55'E	60.09 M.
80-81	N.71%%D06'E	29.39 M.
81-82	S.86%%D10'E	57.19 M.
82-83	N.73%%D04'E	107.95 M.
83-84	N.55%%D27'E	41.22 M.
84-85	N.27%%D20'E	49.03 M.
85-86	N.13%%D48'E	53.77 M.
86-87	N.11%%D55'E	77.02 M.
87-88	N.00%%D35'E	229.70 M.
88-89	N.04%%D52'E	63.82 M.
89-90	N.12%%D12'E	101.37 M.
90-91	N.06%%D16'E	170.68 M.
91-92	N.09%%D06'W	111.21 M.
92-93	N.06%%D15'W	63.48 M.

93-94	N.16°%D19'W	53.23 M.
94-95	N.53°%D29'E	16.26 M.
95-96	N.88°%D08'E	26.44 M.
96-97	S.39°%D25'E	10.74 M.
97-98	S.83°%D28'E	16.72 M.
98-99	N.82°%D12'E	38.05 M.
99-100	N.66°%D43'E	46.48 M.
100-101	N.42°%D04'E	44.98 M.
101-102	N.66°%D11'E	56.78M.
102-103	N.57°%D25'E	59.13 M.
103-104	N.46°%D35'E	37.21 M.
104-105	N.57°%D54'E	7.00 M.
105-106	S.58°%D15'E	7.83 M.
106-107	S.46°%D39'E	89.13 M.
107-108	N.79°%D55'E	18.23 M.
108-109	S.85°%D37'E	33.91 M.
109-110	S.69°%D52'E	33.52 M.
110-111	S.66°%D33'E	45.08 M.
111-112	S.81°%D36'E	62.71 M.
112-113	N.64°%D36'E	11.45 M.
113-1	S.83°%D30'E	221.52 M.

SEC. 5. *Effects of declaration.*— All relevant departments and instrumentalities of the State shall cooperate to undertake the following:



(a) Include the area specified in Section 4 of this Act, hereafter to be known as the “Las Piñas – Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area,” as a component of the National Integrated Protected Areas Systems under Republic Act No. 7586 otherwise known as the *National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992*.

(b) Enforce Republic Act No. 9147 otherwise known as the *Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act* in the Las Piñas – Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area.

(c) Prohibit the reclamation of the “Las Piñas – Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area,” and the immediately periphery so as not to impede the ecological function of the lagoons and its small islands mangroves, salt marshes and tidal areas as breeding, feeding, and roosting place for marine and terrestrial wildlife.

(d) Ensure that existing mangrove, mudflats, and ecosystems are preserved and/or not built over, and are kept in a condition that will support natural growth of indigenous and or naturally occurring wetland plants critical to the survival of wildlife and natural ecological functions.

(e) Ensure the biodiversity component is included and strengthened in all Environmental Impact Assessments and Environmental Risk Assessment Processes for development projects under Administrative Order No. 42 series of 2002.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall ensure spearhead the efforts for maintenance, protection, and establishment of the Las Piñas – Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area.

SEC. 6. *Creation of the LPPCHEA Management Council.* – There is hereby created a Las Piñas – Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area Management Council which shall be convened by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. It shall be composed of the following:

- (a) The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as Chairperson;
- (b) The Secretary of the Department of Tourism as Member;
- (c) The Secretary of the Department of Education;
- (d) Two (2) representatives from non-governmental organizations with technical capacity and proven ecological biodiversity management capability and track record in the area as Members;
- (e) Two (2) representatives from the people’s organizations with a direct stake in the area as Members.



SEC. 7. *Tasks of the LPPCHEA Management Council.* - The Management Council shall have the following tasks:

(a) Prepare and cause the implementation of a Wetland Management Plan, which will include a master plan to establish criteria and guide development in and around the area according to universally established and scientific principles to ensure protection of critical bird habitats and an ecotourism business plan to ensure sustainable and education in the area.

(b) Ensure integrated and sustainable management of the area for the protection of all waterbirds wintering, foraging, breeding, roosting, and nestling, within the Las Piñas – Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area;

(c) Ensure strict compliance with this Act through the incorporation and consideration of the requirements herein in the design of any future development projects, and in the master and development plans of the local governments and other concerned agencies.

SEC. 8. *Funding.* – The initial amount of Ten million Philippine pesos (Php10,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be allotted for the initial funding for the implementation of this Act. Subsequent appropriations shall be included in the budget of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any part, section or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, orders, rules or regulations which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,