

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

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4131**



Introduced by **Congressman Leopoldo N. Bataoil**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Limahong Channel in Domalandan, Lingayen, Province of Pangasinan as a tourist spot thus, the Department of Tourism shall give priority for the development of the area along the Sitio Bantayan, Pangapisan Norte.


The Limahong Channel is a historic site because it was where the Chinese Corsair Limahong, who invaded the Northern Philippine Islands in 1574, sought refuge when he was repulsed by the defenders of Parañaque, then a royal encomienda. Pursued by the Spanish colonizers, he dug a channel in Domalandan, Lingayen that served as his escape way towards the China Sea. It is located along the Agno River at the mouth of Lingayen Gulf.

With the approval of this bill, the historic Limahong Channel will become a tourism, historical and cultural heritage, and ecotourism site. The Department of Tourism will give priority development of the area such as the construction of the Limahong Tourist Center that will serve as a museum to display some artifacts, souvenirs, historical items and other matters related to Limahong settlement and the concreting of the roads going to the site.

The Limahong Channel will serve as a beautiful place for a river cruise on board a replica of Limahong's boat. The surrounding vicinity of the Agno River, having been maintained as one of the best and cleanest river lines in the country, can be showcased for its eco-tourism theme.

Declaring Limahong Channel as a tourist spot will entice tourists, local and foreign, especially the Chinese, to visit the place. This in a way will generate employment opportunities to the residents of the municipality and the nearby communities thus, improving their way of life.

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


LEOPOLDO N. BATAOIL

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE LIMAHONG CHANNEL LOCATED IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF LINGAYEN, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN AS A
TOURIST SPOT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. The Limahong Channel in the Municipality of Lingayen, Province of Pangasinan is hereby declared as a tourist spot. As such, priority development of the Limahong Tourist Center shall be made by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourist spot.

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

SEC. 3. The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the said development plan and incorporate the same in the overall tourism development program of the Department for the ensuing calendar year.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of Tourism shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. For the initial implementation of this act, the amount of One Hundred Fifty Million Pesos is hereby appropriated from the funds of the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter sum as maybe needed for the continued implementation, operation and maintenance of the Limahong Channel shall be included in the annual General Appropriation Act.

SEC. 6. This act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,