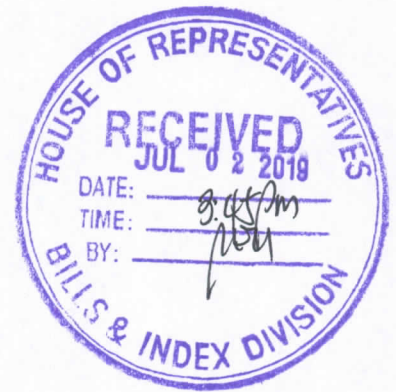


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H.B. No. 1074



Introduced by HON. LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

One of the main attractions of the Philippines is its tourist spots and destinations. As gems of natural wonders, these areas can easily be tapped to improve the livelihood of local communities and generate income for the national economy. Thus, it has been the policy of the State to promote tourism in this country and also to seek the socio-economic alleviation of the communities surrounding these great sites.

Towards this end, the country has been creating new ecotourism sites to develop these natural wonders. As an archipelago surrounded by bodies of water, the Philippines offers many beaches in different parts of the country. In the Province of Marinduque, one of the best locations to visit would be the Torrijos White Beach in the Municipality of Torrijos. Its approximately 1 kilometer stretch of white-sand beach offers visitors a unique beach experience.

As a legitimate gem in the country and a natural wonder in its own right, it is hereby sought that the Torrijos White Beach in the Municipality of Torrijos in the Province of Marinduque be declared as an Ecotourism Site. Such declaration would not only redound to the benefit of the local community but would, in addition, provide boost to the national economy.

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

LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO

1 Republic of the Philippines
2 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
3 Quezon City

4
5 EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
6 First Regular Session

7
8 H.B. No. 1074
9

10
11
12 Introduced by HON. LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO
13

14
15
16 AN ACT DECLARING TORRIJOS WHITE BEACH IN THE PROVINCE OF
17 MARINDUQUE AS AN ECOTOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
18 THEREFOR
19

20 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress
21 assembled:
22

23 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Torrijos White Beach Ecotourism
24 Act of 2019.”
25

26 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a
27 sustainable and effective ecotourism industry to attract tourists, both local and foreign.
28 Towards this end, the country should rationalize all efforts to make the tourism industry
29 a major source of livelihood and an avenue for economic development. Moreover,
30 measures should be taken to ensure that tourism development would be done with a
31 view on the preservation of the existing ecosystem and natural environment.
32

33 SEC. 3. *Torrijos White Beach as an Ecotourism Site.* – By virtue of the location being a
34 tourist spot and having potential of becoming an internationally-regarded destination,
35 Torrijos White Beach in the Municipality of Torrijos, Province of Marinduque is hereby
36 declared as an Ecotourism Site. As such, it shall be accorded priority development by the
37 Department of Tourism, hereinafter referred to as the DOT, and shall be subject to the
38 rules and regulations governing the development of tourist zones.
39

40 SEC. 4. *Creation of the Torrijos Ecotourism Governing Board.* – For purposes of fostering
41 the desired policy of the State and this Act, an Ecotourism Board is hereby established
42 and shall be known as the “Torrijos Ecotourism Governing Board.” This Governing Board
43 shall be created within one (1) year from the approval of this Act.

44 The Governing Board shall be composed of the following:

45

46 a) The Mayor of the Municipality of Torrijos, as Chairperson;

47 b) The Secretary of the Department of Tourism (DOT) or a duly-authorized
48 representative;

49 c) The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
50 (DENR) or a duly-authorized representative;

51 d) A member of a non-governmental organization whose advocacy is
52 environmental preservation;

53 e) A member of the academe;

54 f) A representative from the business sector; and

55 g) The Representative of the Lone District of Marinduque.

56

57 The Governing Board shall prepare the rules and regulations necessary for the
58 implementation by the local government unit of Torrijos of the provisions of this Act and
59 shall, whenever necessary, amend, modify or revise such rules and regulations to meet
60 existing needs.

61

62 **SEC. 5. *Tourism Development Plan.*** - The DOT, in coordination with the local
63 government unit of Torrijos, the Representative of the Lone District of Marinduque and
64 other concerned government agencies, shall, within one (1) year after the approval of this
65 Act, prepare a development plan involving the construction, installation and
66 maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure which shall enhance
67 tourism in the Ecotourism Site: *Provided, That* the said development plan shall ensure the
68 preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and indigenous nature of the locality.

69

70 **SEC. 6. *Implementation of the Plan.*** The DOT shall take immediate steps in
71 implementing the tourism development plan that will suit the natural characteristics of
72 the area and shall incorporate the same in its overall development plans and programs
73 for national implementation.

74

75 **SEC. 7. *Appropriations.*** The DOT shall include in the Department's program the
76 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
77 Appropriations Act and internally-generated funds of the DOT.

78

79 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional
80 or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

81

82 **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and
83 regulations and other issuances, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent herewith are
84 hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

85

86 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
87 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

88

89 *Approved,*