

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1237



Introduced by Representative GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT CONVERTING SITIO MALABNI IN BARANGAY MAWACAT, MUNICIPALITY OF FLORIDABLANCA, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA, INTO A BARANGAY FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Municipality of Floridablanca in the Province of Pampanga is part of the mountainous areas of the Central Plains of Luzon. Its 103,388 population (2007) reside in 33 barangays, majority of which are Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs) covered by the CARP Law.

Of the 33 barangays, historically, there were four (4) upland barangays of indigenous cultural minorities – *Mawacat, Nabuklod, Malabni and Camatchile*. But during the Martial Law period, only Barangays Mawacat and Nabuklod were able to participate in the last Local Elections. Nobody from Barangays Camatchile and Malabni filed the Certificate of Candidacy. They later had become adopted sitios of Barangays Nabuklod and Mawacat, respectively, particularly during the difficult times after Mount Pinatubo erupted in 1991.

About 4,000 Aetas (2007) are already residing in these upland barangays, more than half of which are in Sitio Malabni including those in Sitio Camatchile which is about 20 kilometers away from Nabuklod.

Sitio Malabni receives assistance, but as an adopted sitio, there are constraints. There are needs to augment basic services, to ensure its proper representation in local governance and to improve its physical environment. This sitio must be equally capacitated as a basic political unit by giving its communities the resources and the opportunity to self-govern.

This bill shall convert Sitio Malabni into a barangay, therefore retain its identity based on its more or less permanent natural boundaries. This bill shall likewise entitle Sitio Malabni to a share in the national internal revenue allotment of the Municipality of Floridablanca, subject to the applicable provisions of the Local Government Code (Republic Act 7160), as amended.


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

Section 1. *Conversion of Sitio Malabni into a Barangay.* - Sitio Malabni in Barangay Mawacat, Municipality of Floridablanca, Province of Pampanga, is hereby converted as a barangay, and therefore retain its identity based on its more or less permanent natural boundaries. Its meters and bounds shall be surveyed, cost of which shall be borne by the local government units concerned.

Sec. 2. *Barangay Officials.* - The first set of officials shall be appointed by the Provincial Governor, in consultation with the Municipal Mayor and Representative of the District, and shall hold office until such time that their successors have been duly elected and qualified.

Sec. 3. *Public Infrastructure and Facilities.* - All existing public infrastructure and facilities for public use existing therein at the time of the approval of this Act are hereby transferred without cost or compensation to and shall be administered by the barangay.

Sec. 4. *Internal Revenue Allotment Shares.* - Barangay Malabni shall be entitled to Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) shares pursuant to Section 285 of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991.

Sec. 5. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.