

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City



**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 4766**

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**Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE NOEL L. VILLANUEVA**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The eruption of Mount Pinatubo in 1991 was the worst volcanic eruption that occurred in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It has brought tremendous damages to Central Luzon killing more than seven hundred people and left more than two hundred thousand homeless. Practically, all the communities in the vicinity had been buried by the rampaging lahar that caused numerous people to seek refuge in the once forested areas, specifically the Sitios from the different barangays of Anupul, San Nicolas, San Roque and Lourdes, all in the Municipality of Bamban, Province of Tarlac, which, since 1991, had served as resettlement areas for the affected residents, namely: Sitio Mainang, Sitio Dapdap, also in Barangay San Nicolas, Municipality of Bamban, Tarlac. These parcels of public lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have been vastly improve with numerous public infrastructures to provide comfort and convenience to residents therein. Since the affected residents could no longer return to their original domicile, there is a need to award the lands to the victims of Mount Pinatubo so they cannot be evicted from the land, which they have been occupying since 1991.

It is therefore the paramount objective of this important piece of legislation to reclassify the aforementioned public lands located in the Municipality of Bamban, Province of Tarlac as alienable and disposable public lands and directing the DENR to conduct a cadastral survey to determine the technical description or metes and bounds and appropriate measurement for the eventual titling of the lands to be awarded to the actual occupants. The government also stands to earn from this undertaking as the owners will pay the appropriate real property taxes for the lands they are occupying.

In Municipal Resolution No. 139, Series of 2017 of the Municipality of Bamban, Province of Tarlac, it likewise requests the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to reclassify the aforementioned Public Lands.

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

  
**NOEL L. VILLANUEVA**

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**“AN ACT  
RECLASSIFYING CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND OF PUBLIC DOMAIN LOCATED  
IN SITIOS FROM THE DIFFERENT BARANGAYS OF ANUPUL, SAN NICOLAS, SAN  
ROQUE AND LOURDES, ALL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAMBAN, PROVINCE  
OF TARLAC FROM UNCLASSIFIED FOREST LANDS INTO ALIENABLE AND  
DISPOSABLE LANDS”**

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

SECTION 1. The parcel of lands of public domain located in Sitios from the different Barangays of Anupul, San Nicolas and Lourdes, Municipality of Bamban, Province of Tarlac are hereby reclassified and declared as alienable and disposable lands open to disposition for residential and other productive purposes and to private rights.

SEC. 2. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is hereby directed to undertake a relocation survey of the subject parcel of lands of public domain to determine the technical description or metes and bounds and appropriate measurement.

The DENR shall issue the rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 3. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,