

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6234



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Introduced by Representatives Ria Christina G. Fariñas  
and Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Piddig is a third-class municipality in the Province of Ilocos Norte. It relies largely on agriculture, of which 80% of its population is dependent for their livelihood. In order to boost its socio-economic status, the local government of Piddig came up with development innovations in the area to utilize its resources while promoting and sustaining them, including the Lammin Coffee Plantation located in Sitio Lammin of Barangay Dupitac. This plantation aims to grow organic Arabic coffee in 500 hectares of land.

The coffee project came to light from one of the programs of former Ilocos Norte Governor Imee R. Marcos. In 2011, former Governor Marcos and the Ilocos Norte mayors travelled to Vietnam and Indonesia to visit farm projects. It was during those foreign trips when former Piddig Mayor Eddie Guillen realized the potential of the unutilized public lands of the municipality for coffee production since the climate in Sitio Lammin is perfect for Arabica coffee production. This project aims to decrease importation of coffee considering that the country imports about 80% of its coffee requirements. Through former Piddig Mayor Guillen's efforts, the coffee plantation project started in 2014.

An estimated 500 families are currently employed in the coffee plantation. Each farmer is allocated two hectares of land to grow coffee and is provided 1,600 seedlings. It is reported that 1.5 million seedlings are already growing and being nurtured in the plantation's three nurseries.

Farmers are already working on their respective lands and are being paid for tilling the land. The amount of P70 million was provided by the National

Greening Program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the project.

Other government agencies have already provided funding on the project for the following purposes:

- Department of Agriculture (DA) and Department of Tourism (DOT) - for the construction of farm-to-market roads;
- Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) - for the construction of a dam that aims to collect 3 million cubic meters of rainwater, to irrigate the coffee, and to prevent flooding in the area;
- Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) – for the financial assistance to families who are beneficiaries of the 4Ps program, as their starting capital for vermicompost production; and
- Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) – for the financial assistance to families who are not beneficiaries of the 4Ps program but also work on the coffee plantation project.

Further, a Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) has been entered into between the Benguet State University and the local government of Piddig for the provision of Arabica Seedlings. Project technical assistants and consultants from the Cavite State University are helping farmers grow low elevation coffee varieties – Robusta, Excelsa and Liberica.

It is estimated that at full development, the coffee project will produce 2,000 tons of coffee valued at more than P175 million each year. This will help the Philippines save an estimated amount of US\$4 million a year from importing coffee alone. Further, it will generate more jobs for 2,000 individuals. In Ilocos Norte alone, it is estimated to contribute P400 million to its economy.

The Piddig Farmers' Cooperative is assigned to manage and market the produce of the plantation. However, despite all these ongoing efforts, it is still with the best interest of the National Government to ensure the sustainability and preservation of this project by preparing a comprehensive development plan to ensure its promotion while preserving its natural beauty. It is projected that the Municipality of Piddig will be an *"Organic Coffee Bowl in the North"*.

This proposed bill seeks to declare the Lammin Coffee Plantation as a tourist destination and requires the DOT and its attached agencies, in coordination with

the DA, DPWH, DSWD and DOLE, and in consultation with the local government of Piddig, to come up with a tourism development plan for the plantation.

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



RIA CHRISTINA G. FARIÑAS



RUDYS CAESAR G. FARIÑAS I



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**AN ACT  
DECLARING THE LAMMIN COFFEE PLANTATION LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF  
PIDDIG, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE, AS A TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR  
ITS DEVELOPMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**Section 1.** The Lammin Coffee Plantation in Sitio Lammin, Barangay Dupitac, Municipality of Piddig, Province of Ilocos Norte, is hereby declared a tourist destination. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourist destinations.

**Sec. 2.** Within one (1) year from the approval of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the concerned local government units and agencies of the government, shall prepare a tourism development plan involving the construction, installation, and maintenance of appropriate infrastructures and facilities that enhance tourism in the area: *Provided*, That the development plan ensures the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the area: *Provided, further*, That any activity and development to be carried out in the area must conform with the concept of ecotourism as provided in the

national ecotourism strategy jointly issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the DOT.

**Sec. 3.** The DOT and its concerned attached agencies shall take immediate steps in implementing the tourism development plan that suits the natural characteristics of the Lammin Coffee Plantation, and shall incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year. It shall also include Lammin Coffee Plantation in all its national, regional, and local promotion programs.

**Sec. 4.** The Secretary of Tourism shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and from internally generated funds of the DOT.

**Sec. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Tourism, in consultation with the Municipality of Piddig, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

**Sec. 6.** All laws, rules, regulations, proclamations, executive orders, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended accordingly.

**Sec. 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*