

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

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1020

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
RECEIVED	
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BY:	<u>[Signature]</u>
REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

Introduced by **Honorable Leopoldo N. Bataoil**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a marine eco-tourism park in the Municipality of Lingayen, Province of Pangasinan and appropriating funds therefor. It shall be known as "The Lingayen Gulf Marine Eco-Tourism Park."

Lingayen is a first class municipality in the Province of Pangasinan. It is the capital municipality and the seat of government of the Province of Pangasinan. According to the 2010 census, it has a population of 98,740 people. It is located along the Lingayen Gulf, the Agno river, and the Limahong Channel.

Agriculture, livestock and fishing are the major industries of the town. The major fishing ground is the Lingayen Gulf within the municipal territorial waters of fifteen (15) kilometers from the shoreline classified as the municipal fishing ground. Fisheries can be found in every barangay.

Its rich history includes the landing site of the US Forces during the World War II, the grand Capitol Complex, the Sison Auditorium, Urduja Building and lately, the establishment of the Lingayen Baywalk makes the town Lingayen as the new center of tourism and emerging growth area for trade and investment.

This bill, therefore, seeks to establish a marine eco-tourism park in the Municipality of Lingayen to protect it from indiscriminate exploitation and to maintain its ecological balance and preserve the waters surrounding the area.

It is deemed crucial that we protect and regenerate Lingayen Gulf to insure that our children and the generations to come will inherit the beauty of our bountiful marine life. The marine eco-tourism park will be an ideal destination for the students for their educational tours. It will also boost local and national economy as it provides livelihood, employment and business with the expected influx of local and foreign tourists.

A *Bantay Dagat* Outpost with breakwater enclosure designed to protect a one (1) square kilometer area shall be constructed to serve as the guardian of the sea, ensure compliance and enforcement of fishery laws and serve as staging area for search and rescue operations. It shall serve as a central docking area for fast crafts for visiting tourists and "*lakbay-aral*" groups. It shall also serve as a terminal for travelers to Sual, Hundred Islands in Alaminos, Bolinao, Dagupan, San Fabian, Agoon and Poro Point in San Fernando City, La Union.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is highly recommended.



LEOPOLDO N. BATAOIL

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF "LINGAYEN GULF MARINE ECO-TOURISM PARK IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LINGAYEN, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Lingayen Gulf Marine Eco-Tourism Park Act".

Sec. 2. It shall be the declared policy of the State to promote and protect the right of the people to a healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature that will also encourage marine ecotourism industry to attract local and foreign tourists to secure the country's share in the world tourism market and to make it an avenue for generation of employment while ensuring environmental protection, conservation and preservation of the natural resources and ensuring public safety.

Sec. 3. There shall be established a marine eco-tourism park, under the supervision of the Department of Tourism in close coordination with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Pangasinan Provincial Government and the Municipal Government of Lingayen. The site of the marine eco-tourism park shall be located at the Capitol Beach Front, adjacent to the Lingayen Baywalk along the coast of the historic Lingayen Gulf.

Sec. 4. For the purpose of this Act, a marine eco-tourism park governing board is hereby created to be known as the Lingayen Gulf Marine Eco-Tourism Park Board. It shall be composed of the following:

- (a) Governor of the Province of Pangasinan, Chairperson
- (b) Representative of the second District of the Province of Pangasinan, co-Chairperson
- (c) Department of Tourism (DOT) Regional Director for Region 1, member
- (d) DA Regional Executive Director for Region 1, member
- (e) Mayor of the Municipality of Lingayen, member
- (f) One representative of the business sector, member and
- (g) One representative of the private sector

Sec. 5. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Department of Tourism in coordination with the Director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Region 1 of the Department of Agriculture and the concerned Local Government Units shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 6. The amount necessary for the construction of the Park and the improvement of the roads leading to the Park shall be charged to the Convergence Fund of the Department of Tourism, Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Works and Highways and Department of Transportation and Communications. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the repair and maintenance of the Park

and the road leading to the Park shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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,