

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



**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2639

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**Introduced by Representative Juan Fidel Nograles**

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The state is very cognizant of its policy to promote a tourism industry that is sustainable, cultural, ecological, accountable, economically feasible, ethically and socially equitable to all its inhabiting populace.

In accordance with the provisions of *Republic Act 9593 (Tourism Act of 2009)*, the state is very aware of its policy to foster a tourism industry that ecological and equitable to all its inhabiting populace and for the very protection and development of the natural environment.

The **Masungi Georeserve** in Rizal allows guests to go through the conservation area on a limited number and via trail visit request. Henceforth an experienced park ranger will be guiding guests all throughout the trek providing an in-depth information about the sustainable tourism in the Philippines.

Masungi Georeserve has a strong commitment to love for nature, scale the impact on surrounding communities, and igniting guests to support the sustainable conservation development and promote geotourism in the

Philippines. Over two decades, Masungi Georeserve has been committed to the rehabilitation and development of the environment in Rizal.

Developing and enhancing the beauty of this natural resource will surely generate investment and foreign exchange in the area, while providing employment opportunities for the local government and residents within the area.

This House Bill seeks to declare **Masungi Georeserve** in the municipality of Rizal as a *tourist destination*.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

  
**JUAN FIDEL NOGRALES**

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62 AN ACT

63 DECLARING **MASUNGI GEORESERVE** IN THE PROVINCE OF  
64 RIZAL AS A TOURIST DESTINATION

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

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68 **SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF POLICY** – The **Masungi Georeserve** is  
69 hereby declared a *tourist destination*.

70 As such, it shall be therefor a priority development by the *Department of*  
71 *Tourism (DOT)*, and shall be the subject to the rules and regulations governing  
72 the existing development programs of an earnest tourist destination. The DOT  
73 shall prioritize the establishment of a tourist destination to be known as the  
74 Masungi Georeserve.

75 **SECTION 2.** The DOT, in accordance with the Department of Public Works  
76 and Highways, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department  
77 of the Internal and Local Government, and other concerned government agencies  
78 and institutions of the state, together with the Local Government Units (LGUs)  
79 and civil society organizations, shall within one **(1)** year from the approval of this



and civil society organizations, shall within one **(1)** year from the approval of this act, shall formulate a comprehensive development plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of such applicable facilities and infrastructure that shall enhance, develop and promote the tourism sector in the area, and improve accessibility and ensure the security of tourists. *Provided, that* the development plan shall therefor ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty, historical significance and resources of the area.

**SECTION 3.** The DOT, in coordination with all other agencies and institutions concerned, shall therefor take immediate actions in implementing the development plan that will fit the natural features of **Masungi Georeserve**, and shall integrate the same in its overall development programs.

**SECTION 4.** It shall also be a declared responsibility of the DOT to foster WAWA dam as a tourism destination in all its local, regional and national promotion plans and programs.

**SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION** – The Secretary of Tourism shall include in the Department’s program the implementation of this Act, and the amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (**GAA**) and from internally generated funds of the DOT of the year following its enactment into a law and thereafter.

**SECTION 6. TRANSITORY PROVISION** – Existing agencies, industries, businesses and offices affected by the implementation of this Act shall be given six **(6)** months transitory period from the effectivity of the IRR or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

**SECTION 7. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.** – The DOT shall be charged with carrying out the provisions of this Act shall, within sixty **(60)** days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

**SECTION 8. REPEALING CLAUSE.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 9. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

**SECTION 10. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,