Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 490

Submitted by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations on SEP. 1 2 2020
Re: House Bill No. 7656
Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1076
Sponsors: Representatives Sol Aragones, Eric Go Yap and Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations, to which was referred House Bill No. 1076, introduced by Rep. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, entitled:

AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF STA. CRUZ IN THE PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE AS AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 7656, entitled:

AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF STA. CRUZ, PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 1076 with Representative Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco as author thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

REP. ERIC GO YAP
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

REP. SOL ARAGONES
Chairperson
Committee on Tourism

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY
AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF STA. CRUZ, PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Santa Cruz Ecotourism Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a sustainable and effective ecotourism industry to attract tourists, both local and foreign. Towards this end, the country shall rationalize all efforts to make the tourism industry a major source of livelihood and an avenue for economic development. Moreover, measures shall be taken to ensure that tourism development is consistent with the preservation of the existing ecosystem and natural environment.

SEC. 3. Santa Cruz Ecotourism Zone. – The Municipality of Santa Cruz, located in the Province of Marinduque, is hereby declared an ecotourism zone. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and other concerned agencies, subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.
In particular, the development of the following areas shall be given focus by the DOT, other concerned government agencies and the municipal government of Santa Cruz:

a) Islands of Maniwaya, Mongpong and Polo;

b) Bagumbungan Cave;

c) Busay Falls in Barangay Pag-asa;

d) Kawa-kawa Falls in Barangay Bangcuangan; and

e) Santa Cruz Church.

SEC. 4. **Ecotourism Governing Board.** – Within one (1) year from the approval of this Act, there shall be created the Santa Cruz Ecotourism Governing Board, to be composed of the following:

a) Mayor of the Municipality of Santa Cruz, as ex-officio Chairperson;

b) Secretary of the Department of Tourism (DOT) or a duly-authorized representative, as member;

c) Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) or a duly-authorized representative, as member;

d) Representative of the Lone District of Marinduque or a duly-authorized representative, as member;

e) Representative from an accredited non-governmental organization whose advocacy is environmental preservation, as member;

f) Representative from the academe, as member; and

g) Representative from the business sector, as member.

The Board shall prepare the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act and shall, when necessary, amend, modify or revise such rules and regulations to meet existing needs.
The Provincial Government of Marinduque shall provide a Secretariat for the Board
including the funding necessary to cover expenses for the performance of its official
functions and activities.

SEC. 5. Ecotourism Development Plan. – Within one (1) year from the approval of
this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the municipal government of Santa Cruz, the
Representative of the Lone District of Marinduque and other concerned government agencies,
shall prepare an ecotourism development plan containing among others the construction,
installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall
enhance tourism in the Municipality of Santa Cruz, particularly in the Islands of Maniwaya,
Mongpong and Polo; Bagumbungan Cave; Busay Falls in Barangay Pag-asas; Kawa-kawa
Falls in Barangay Bangcuangan; and Santa Cruz Church: Provided, That said development
plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and indigenous
nature of the locality.

SEC. 6. Implementation of the Plan. The DOT shall take immediate steps in
implementing the ecotourism development plan and incorporate the same in its overall
development plans and programs for national implementation.

SEC. 7. Appropriations. The Secretary of the DOT 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. 8. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act shall be declared
unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force
and effect.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. – All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees and
other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed
repealed or amended accordingly.
SEC. 10. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.