AN ACT
DECLARING BARANGAY TALA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ORANI, PROVINCE OF BATAAN, 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. This Act shall be known as the “Tala Ecotourism Zone Act”.

Sec. 2. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally-sensitive, economically viable and equitably beneficial to local communities.

Sec. 3. Barangay Tala in the Municipality of Orani, Province of Bataan is hereby declared an ecotourism zone. Its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.

The DOT shall prepare the development plan for Barangay Tala and shall incorporate the same in the overall National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP), pursuant to Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as “The Tourism Act of 2009”. The plan shall be implemented jointly with the municipal government of Orani, the local Protected Area Management Board (PAMB),
the Bataan National Park (BNP) and the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA).

The DOT, in coordination with the municipal government of Orani, PAMB, BNP, TIEZA and other concerned agencies of the government, shall identify well-defined geographic areas within the Barangay Tala ecotourism zone, which shall include the Bataan National Park and existing infrastructure and facilities therein, and ensure the integrated development of these areas for the optimum utilization of natural assets and attractions, as well as the preservation of their historical significance.

Sec. 4. 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. 5. Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DOT, in consultation with the municipal government of Orani, PAMB, BNP, TIEZA and other tourism stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

Sec. 6. All laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations and other issuances, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.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,