

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8208

BY REPRESENTATIVES NOGRALES (J.J.), ARAGONES, BASCUG, UY (J.), VIOLAGO, GATO, CABREDO,
CELESTE AND SAULOG, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 661

AN ACT
DECLARING MASUNGI GEORESERVE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BARAS,
PROVINCE OF RIZAL, AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The Masungi Georeserve in the Municipality of Baras, Province of Rizal,
2 is hereby declared an ecotourism destination. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the
3 Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development
4 of ecotourism destinations.

5 **SEC. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in consultation with
6 the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Public Works and
7 Highways, Department of the Interior and Local Government, other concerned government
8 agencies, local government units (LGUs) and civil society organizations, shall prepare an
9 ecotourism development plan including the construction, installation and maintenance of such
10 appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall enhance, develop and promote ecotourism in
11 the area, and improve accessibility and ensure the security of tourists: *Provided*, That said

1 development plan shall ensure the preservation, conservation and optimum utilization of
2 available assets and resources in the area.

3 **SEC. 3.** The DOT, in coordination with all concerned government agencies and LGUs,
4 shall take immediate steps to implement the development plan and incorporate the same in its
5 tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year. It shall also include the Masungi
6 Georeserve in all its national, regional and local promotions programs.

7 **SEC. 5.** The Secretaries of the DOT and DENR shall include in their respective
8 Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in
9 the annual General Appropriations Act and shall augment such allocation with internally
10 generated funds of the DOT.

11 **SEC. 6.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT shall promulgate
12 the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

13 **SEC. 7.** All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, proclamations, presidential decrees
14 and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed
15 repealed or amended accordingly.

16 **SEC. 8** If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or
17 invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

18 **SEC. 9.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*
19 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,