



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

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 6293

Introduced by **HON. MUJIV S. HATAMAN** of the Lone District of Basilan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare Malamawi Island in the City of Isabela, Province of Basilan, an ecotourism zone.

Malamawi Island is a small island in the Province of Basilan, with a long stretch of white sandy beach on its northern coast. It is one kilometer away from the City of Isabela, Province of Basilan. The island has an exotic appeal, idyllic natural beauty and serenity, and is home to indigenous communities with unique and colorful cultural heritage. Because of its crystal blue waters, refined white sand, breathtaking sceneries, and wonderful people, Malamawi Island has drawn tourists and visitors making this part of Basilan a jewel of its tourism industry.

Cognizant of its importance to the overall development of Isabela City and Basilan Province as a whole, the local government unit has poured programs and projects to the island and its communities to bolster its capacity to accommodate visitors and improve the lives of its people, and enrich visitor and tourist experience.

Most importantly, beyond drawing more guests and visitors, the move to declare Malamawi Island an eco-tourism zone will elevate the promotion and implementation of a sustainable tourism industry, one that will benefit not only foster economic development, but also the development and protection of its cultural and environmental significance.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. MUJIV S. HATAMAN
Representative
Lone District of Basilan



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AN ACT
DECLARING MALAMAWI ISLAND IN THE CITY OF ISABELA,
PROVINCE OF BASILAN, 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. The Malamawi Island, in the City of Isabela, Province of Basilan is hereby declared an ecotourism zone. Its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.

SEC. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT shall, in coordination with the local government units of the City of Isabela, Province of Basilan, and agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan involving the construction, installation, and maintenance of appropriate infrastructure and facilities that shall encourage tourism in the area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the

natural beauty and resources of the area: *Provided, further,* That any activities and development to be carried out in the area should conform with the concept of ecotourism as provided in the national ecotourism strategy jointly issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the DOT.

SEC. 3. The DOT and its attached agencies shall take immediate steps to implement the tourism development plan that suits the natural characteristics of Malamawi Island, and shall incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year. It shall also include Malamawi Island in all its national, regional, and local promotion programs.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of Tourism shall include in the DOT'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 from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Tourism shall, in consultation with the local government of the City of Isabela, Province of Basilan, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended 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,