



Sangguniang Panlalawigan

BATAAN CAPITOL, BALANGA CITY



EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 130TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF BATAAN ON MARCH 10, 2025 HELD AT THE SAKURA RESTAURANT, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE

PRESENT:

Hon. Antonino B. Roman III, J.D., LL.M., Acting Vice Governor and Presiding Officer

FIRST DISTRICT:

Hon. Benjamin C. Serrano, Jr., Board Member
Hon. Jomar L. Gaza J.D., Board Member

SECOND DISTRICT:

Hon. Maria Margarita R. Roque, Board Member
Hon. Manuel N. Beltran, Board Member
Hon. Noel Joseph L. Valdecañas, Board Member

THIRD DISTRICT:

Hon. Romano L. Del Rosario, Board Member
Hon. Jorge S. Estanislao, M.D., Board Member
Hon. Angelito M. Sunga, Board Member
Hon. Roman Harold R. Espeleta, Board Member

Hon. Romeo A. Austria, Board Member (FABC President)
Hon. Lovely Joy A. Poblete, Board Member (SKF President)
Hon. Feliciano G. Magay, Jr., Board Member (IPMR)

ABSENT:

Hon. Jovy Z. Banzon, Board Member (PCL President) (On Leave)

PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 04

Series of 2025

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE APPROXIMATELY 22,000 SQ.M. PORTION OF LAND LOCATED AT THE PROVINCIAL TOURISM OFFICE, CITY OF BALANGA, BATAAN AS A PUBLIC PARK KNOWN AS THE BATAAN TOURISM PARK, AND PROVIDING FUNDS FOR ITS MAINTENANCE.

SPONSORED BY:

HON. MANUEL N. BELTRAN

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accordance with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 17 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, local government units (LGUs) shall provide basic facilities and services, such as, but not limited to, tree parks, greenbelts, and similar forest development projects; cultural centers, public parks, and other similar facilities; and tourism development and promotion programs;

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WHEREAS, green spaces in urban areas are known to provide various ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration, air filtering, noise reduction, biodiversity conservation, microclimate regulation, outdoor recreation, and education and research, contributing to the physical, mental, and social well-being of citizens;

WHEREAS, a parcel of land with an approximate area of twenty-two thousand square meters (22,000 sq. m.) located at the Bataan Tourism Center compound in Balanga City, Bataan, was developed by the Provincial Government of Bataan (PGB) into Bataan Tourism Park, a park with structures or amenities like comfort rooms, benches, gazebos, lighting fixtures, man-made pond, and variety of plants;

WHEREAS, the Bataan Tourism Park, since its opening in 2021, has been receiving an average of 100,000 visitors annually, Bataeños and tourists alike;

WHEREAS, the PGB will devote efforts to enhance the overall environmental governance and better use of its public parks and green open spaces, with emphasis on the importance of biodiversity and its link to health, well-being and green recovery in the Province of Bataan;

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained as it is hereby ordained by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of the Province of Bataan, in session assembled, that:

SECTION 1. TITLE. - This Ordinance shall be known as the "Bataan Tourism Park Ordinance" and shall hereinafter be referred to as the Ordinance.

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. - It is hereby declared the policy of the PGB to:

1. Protect and preserve the environment while upholding its corresponding regulatory and cultural ecosystem services through the conservation and development of green spaces;
2. Promote sustainable urban development by allocating green spaces in key population centers in the province; and
3. Enhance the quality of life of citizens by ensuring access to green spaces such as public parks.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS. - The following terms or phrases used in this Ordinance shall mean as follows:

- a. **GREEN SPACE** - natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features which are designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services and protect biodiversity in both rural and urban settings;
- b. **PUBLIC PARK** - any land or area within the jurisdiction of the Province of Bataan, designated and maintained primarily for public use, recreational activities, and the preservation of natural resources.

SECTION 4. DECLARATION OF THE BATAAN TOURISM PARK AS A PUBLIC PARK. - The Bataan Tourism Park is hereby declared a public park. This declaration affirms its status as a public green space and a key tourism

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destination in the province, dedicated to promoting environmental conservation, cultural heritage, and sustainable tourism.

The Bataan Tourism Park shall serve as a vital venue for recreation, education, and community engagement, showcasing the province's commitment to biodiversity, health, and environmental stewardship.

SECTION 5. BATAAN TOURISM PARK OPERATIONS. - The Bataan Tourism Park shall be open to the public, free of charge, from Monday to Sunday, 5:00 AM to 9:00 PM. The following activities shall be allowed within the premises of the park:

- a. Strolling, jogging, and other wellness activities;
- b. Picnicking, PROVIDED that all trash shall be collected and disposed of properly by the picnicker(s);
- c. Professional/Commercial photography and videography, PROVIDED that such activities have permission from the subject person(s) and/or from the Office of the Provincial Tourism Officer (OPTO), as necessary;
- d. Walking of pets, PROVIDED that the animals are properly restrained so as not to disturb other visitors and not to destroy any park property; PROVIDED Further, that any fecal deposits by the animal are promptly removed, and such deposits are disposed of in a trash receptacle or removed by the person controlling the animals;
- e. Educational activities, such as field trips and guided tours, PROVIDED that prior permission or authorization has been secured from the OPTO;
- f. Temporary installation and exhibition of artistic pieces and outdoor performances and programs, PROVIDED that prior permission or authorization from the OPTO has been secured; and
- g. Other outdoor recreational, educational, or wellness activities as authorized by the PGB through the OPTO.

All visitors shall be responsible for the safety of their personal belongings, and the OPTO shall not be liable for any lost or stolen items.

SECTION 6. MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF BATAAN TOURISM PARK.

A Park Administration Unit is hereby established under the OPTO to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Bataan Tourism Park. This unit shall ensure the effective maintenance, upkeep, and continuous improvement of the public park and its green spaces.

The Park Administration Unit shall include the following plantilla positions, aligned with the existing Organizational Chart of the OPTO and subject to applicable civil service and fiscal management laws, rules, and regulations, PROVIDED that their formal creation shall be subject to the enactment of a separate ordinance:

- a) One Administrative Aide VI (Utility Foreman) - SG-6
- b) Nine Administrative Aide III (Utility Worker II) - SG-3

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c) One Park Maintenance Foreman - SG-8

SECTION 7. PROHIBITED ACTS. - No person shall engage in any of the following activities within the premises of Bataan Tourism Park:

- a. Destruction of park property and vandalism, such as defacing, destruction, injuring, misuse, or unauthorized removal of any property from the park, trails, and open space; and causing harm to and unauthorized removal or harvesting of flora and fauna within the park, including their parts or by-products;
- b. Dumping, littering, or improper disposal of solid wastes;
- c. Possession, distribution, and use of alcohol, tobacco, electronic cigarettes, vapes, and other controlled substances or products;
- d. Indecent conduct, such as urinating or defecating in areas other than the comfort rooms; and any sexual, indecent, or obscene acts or sexual harassment;
- e. Unauthorized use or operation of motorized vehicles and equipment;
- f. Possession and use of fireworks or other explosive pyrotechnics;
- g. Unauthorized possession and use of weapons;
- h. Entering the pond or lagoon for the purpose of swimming, diving, wading, and/or bathing; and
- i. Engaging in other activities that pose a threat to public safety, disturb the peace, or violate other ordinances, existing laws, and regulations.

SECTION 8. PENALTIES. - Any person found guilty of violating Section 7 hereof shall be subject to the following penalties, without prejudice to the filing of necessary criminal or civil cases:

First Offense	Fine of PHP 1,000.00
Second Offense	Fine of PHP 3,000.00
Third and Succeeding Offenses	Fine of PHP 5,000.00

Violators who fail to pay the corresponding fines shall render the following community service in the Bataan Tourism Park to be supervised by the OPTO:

First Offense	One (1) day community service
Second Offense	Three (3) day community service
Third and Succeeding Offenses	Five (5) day community service

SECTION 9. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. - If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.


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SECTION 10. REPEALING CLAUSE. - All ordinances, resolutions, local executive orders, or administrative regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVITY. - This Ordinance shall take effect after compliance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Code.

UNANIMOUSLY ENACTED this 10th day of March 2025.


I HEREBY CERTIFY to the enactment of the foregoing ordinance.


ATTY. MARK LORENZ C. QUEZON
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan

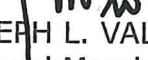

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Board Member
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Acting Provincial Governor

ATTESTED:


ANTONINO B. ROMAN III, J.D., LL.M.
Acting Vice Governor & Presiding Officer

APPROVED:


MA. CRISTINA M. GARCIA
Acting Provincial Governor
Date: 3-14-25

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