

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 AUG 24 1976

SENATE

S.B. 2456

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Luneta Park, with all of its 53 hectares, is a symbol not just of Manila but of the country's heritage. It is a living insignia of our people.

Luneta Park is home to the Rizal Monument, which more than a mausoleum of our national hero, Jose Rizal, is known as the "kilometer zero" - a point of origin from which all distances in the Philippines are measured. Aside from the splendidly bronze and granite-sculpted statue of Rizal made by world renowned Richard Kissling, Luneta Park boasts of an Orchidaerium, the Japanese Park, the public hall featuring the Concerts at the Park, Planetarium and a replica of Philippine archipelago in the middle of a manmade lake. The scenic Manila Bay and the architectural greatness of the Department of Tourism, the old Department of Finance, the Manila Hotel and National Museum complements the once captivating historical vista of the famous landmark.

But Luneta Park has deteriorated. It is no longer the garden of greens and trees as envisioned. It no longer affords the respite needed by citizens. In recent years, there are reports that it has become as the free refuge for vagrants, a haven for cheap flesh trade.

Luneta must be revived again as a modern green park with lush and healthy environment. It is the objective of this bill to bring back the glory of Luneta Park. It is the aim of this legislation to rehabilitate and bring it back to its former grandeur, making Luneta Park comparable to Central Park in New York, Hyde Park in London or Jardin de Tuilleries in Paris.

The Filipinos must claim it back. Luneta must be saved.

Early recognition of this legislation is earnestly sought.


MANNY VILLAR

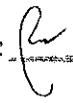
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**AN ACT
GREEN MODERNIZATION PROGRAM
PROVIDING FOR A TEN-YEAR LUNETA PARK**

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

SECTION 1. The State honors two of the most relevant policies in the fundamental law, the peoples' right to health and the citizens' right to clean environment.

The State declares that it shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

The State declares likewise that it shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

For the purpose, this Act endeavors to rehabilitate and to revive by re-greening, modernizing and promoting the total development of Luneta Park, making it achieve its status of a relevant citizen-friendly ecological, tourist and cultural site.

SEC. 2. In order to ensure the proper implementation of this Act, a ten-year Luneta Park Green Modernization Program is hereby created. A multi-agency organization to be known as the Luneta Park Green Modernization Council is hereby formed and shall be composed of the respective chairs or duly appointed representatives of the National Park Development Committee, National Historical Institute, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Health and the City of Manila and four (4) representatives from the private sector with strong knowledge on urban planning, parks management, cultural/heritage preservation and tourism.

An Executive Director shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines who shall have the direct operation and management of a lean Secretariat.

SEC. 3. A comprehensive blueprint defining the rehabilitation, revival, re-greening, cultural rehabilitation, tourism management, ecological preservation and total development of the Luneta Park shall be adopted within six (6) months after the adoption of this Act.

Consultations and coordination with various stakeholders shall be effected.

The Council shall adopt a policy of full transparency in implementing the modernization/green program.

SEC. 4. The Council shall submit an initial report with a comprehensive development blueprint within one hundred eighty days after the approval of this Act and every two (2) years thereafter detailing the evaluation of progress, individual projects and other concerns for evaluation and consideration.

SEC. 5. Initially, the amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (Php 100,000,000.00) from the combined earnings of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office is appropriated.

Thereafter, the amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the subsequent years.

SEC. 6. Any law, decree, issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule and regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 7. If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,