

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
Second Regular Session** ]  
] ]



21 JAN 18 A9:55

**SENATE**

**S.B. No. 1986**

RECEIVED

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**Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN**

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**AN ACT  
DECLARING THE LUZON DATUM LOCATED IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF MOGPOG, PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE A TOURIST  
SPOT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The province of Marinduque, dubbed as the "Heart of the Philippines", is a heart-shaped island in the Southern Tagalog Region. Coincidentally, the island is also the geographical center of the archipelago and a stone marker marks its significance in Philippine geography.

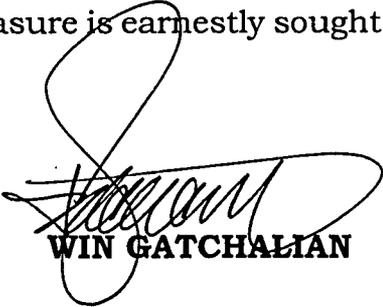
To signify that it is the geographical center of the Philippine archipelago, a marker has been fixed in what is known as the Luzon Datum of 1911 or Station Balanacan. This piece of stone marker is located on top of a hill that locals call Mataas na Bundok or Mt. Mataas in Barangay Hinanggayon, town of Mogpog. It is the primary geodetic reference or origin of all geological surveys in the Philippines which means all maps and surveys made in the country use the Luzon Datum as a reference point.

In other countries, their geographic centers have become tourist attractions due to their creative initiative to build large stone monuments in

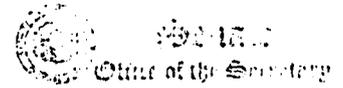
these centers. Examples of these countries are Japan, India, Taiwan, Australia and the United States of America.

With this current global trend of setting up monuments in their respective geographic centers, it is the right time to convert the Luzon Datum of 1911 into a modern-day tourist spot. As such, the development of a large stone monument in the Luzon Datum is feasible and beneficial, as it will help this country's tourism and will also identify that the Luzon Datum is a significant geographical point in the Philippine archipelago.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



**WIN GATCHALIAN**



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

1 **SECTION 1.** Luzon Datum of 1911 or Station Balanacan, is a stone marker  
2 located on top of *Mataas na Bundok* or Mt. Mataas in Barangay Hinanggayon,  
3 Municipality of Mogpog, Province of Marinduque. It is the primary geodetic  
4 reference or origin of all geological maps and surveys in the Philippines.

5  
6 **Sec. 2.** The Luzon Datum is hereby declared as a tourist spot. As such, its  
7 development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), and  
8 shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of  
9 tourist spots. The DOT shall prioritize the establishment of a tourist center to  
10 be known as the Luzon Datum Tourist Center.

11  
12 **SEC. 3.** Within six (6) months after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in  
13 coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority  
14 (TIEZA) and concerned agencies of the government, shall prepare a tourism

1 development plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of  
2 such appropriate facilities and infrastructure as shall encourage tourism in  
3 the area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation  
4 and conservation of the natural beauty and historical significance thereof.

5

6 **SEC. 4.** The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the development  
7 plan and incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the  
8 ensuing calendar year.

9

10 **SEC. 5.** The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program  
11 the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the  
12 annual General Appropriations Act and from internally-generated funds of the  
13 DOT.

14

15 **SEC. 6.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of  
16 the DOT shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its proper  
17 implementation.

18

19 **SEC. 7.** This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the  
20 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,