

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

Eighteenth Congress  
Second Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 9590**

Introduced by **REP. SABINIANO “BEN” CANAMA**



**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This House bill seeks to provide the long-time inhabitants of Capayas Island in Barangay Tabud, Municipality of Bataraza, Province of Palawan, the opportunity to perfect their rights of possession over the public land area they currently occupy and possess, protect the State's natural resources, and support and promote the development of Capayas, consistent with the tenets of sustainable economic development in the Province of Palawan.

Capayas is an island west of Barangay Tabud, Bataraza, Palawan. It is a three (3) hectare papaya-shaped area where fishermen take lunch breaks on fishing days. Its shoreline is marked with fine white and pinkish soft sand. Surrounded by clear water and a gorgeous shoreline, this untouched paradise is packed with the makings of the next island destination. It is accessible via a 15-minute boat ride from the shores of the mainland Palawan. Once in Barangay Tabud, Bataraza, visitors can already see the beautiful island. The local *bancas* are the only means of transportation for tourists who visit the island..

Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7611, otherwise known as the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan Act, declares the State's policy to protect, develop and conserve its natural resources. It declares that "it shall assist and support the implementation of plans, programs and projects formulated to preserve and enhance the environment, and at the same time pursue the socio-economic development goals of the country. It shall support and promote the sustainable development goals for the provinces through proper conservation, utilization and development of natural resources to provide optimum yields on a continuing basis."

Despite its natural beauty, Capayas Island is constrained by lack of proper utilities and difficulties in accessibility. It has not yet been the subject of major development and infrastructure. Long time inhabitants are reluctant to build long-term property thereon because of the uncertainty of its land ownership. With years passing by, this paradise remains untapped. This area has become prone to illegal settlers for squatting and usurpation, thereby undermining the conservation and protection of the

natural resources in the area. The waters in and around it are also prone to illegal fishing activities, such as dynamite fishing. However, this can be prevented if more inhabitants settle in the area once Capayas is reclassified into an alienable and disposable land.

Capayas is located in the first-class Municipality of Bataraza, nestled in the southernmost tip of mainland Palawan. Majority of the livelihood in Bataraza is fishing and farming. Bataraza itself is overflowing with development potential. It is the subject of House Bill No. 6728 which proposes its conversion to a component city. It is the Pineapple Capital of Palawan, known for its sweet pineapple harvest.

The proposed reclassification of Capayas into an alienable and disposable land will pave way for its long-awaited development and recognition. From its discovery and occupation decades ago, the area has yet to achieve its full glory. With Bataraza now entering a phase of major developments, especially in infrastructure, logistic constraints in Capayas will substantially be reduced. Hence, it is high time that this area be properly classified as alienable and disposable.

By converting and reclassifying Capayas from timberland into alienable and disposable land, this measure increases the agricultural, commercial, residential and tourism land areas available for disposition to the local populace; contribute to economic growth in Bataraza; and ensure the proper conservation and management of public lands.

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



**REP. SABINIANO “BEN” CANAMA**  
COOP-NATCO PARTYLIST

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**AN ACT**  
**DECLARING THE WHOLE LAND WITHIN THE ISLAND KNOWN AS**  
**CAPAYAS ISLAND IN BARANGAY TABUD, MUNICIPALITY OF**  
**BATARAZA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, AS ALIENABLE AND**  
**DISPOSABLE LAND OPEN TO DISPOSITION FOR AGRICULTURAL,**  
**COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND OTHER PRODUCTIVE**  
**PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1.** The land comprising the whole island known as Capayas Island situated in Barangay Tabud, Municipality of Bataraza, Province of Palawan is hereby declared an alienable and disposable land open to disposition for agricultural, commercial, residential, industrial and other productive purposes, which is particularly described as follows:

| <b>LINES</b> | <b>BEARINGS</b> | <b>DISTANCES</b> |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1-2          | S 08°07' E      | 36.72 M.         |
| 2-3          | S 08°30' E      | 39.87 M.         |
| 3-4          | S 13°39' E      | 24.35 M.         |
| 4-5          | S 04°41' W      | 27.43 M.         |
| 5-6          | S 22°05' W      | 54.18 M.         |
| 6-7          | S 38°38' W      | 12.80 M.         |
| 7-8          | S 57°50' W      | 18.52 M.         |

|       |            |          |
|-------|------------|----------|
| 8-9   | S 85°57' W | 39.76 M. |
| 9-10  | N 85°14' W | 26.31 M. |
| 10-11 | N 76°39' W | 19.49 M. |
| 11-12 | N 59°04' W | 29.97 M. |
| 12-13 | N 26°52' W | 21.19 M. |
| 13-14 | N 07°13' W | 22.07 M. |
| 14-15 | N 19°39' E | 36.80 M. |
| 15-16 | N 31°18' E | 50.85 M. |
| 16-17 | N 33°52' E | 54.25 M. |
| 17-18 | N 39°35' E | 16.02 M. |
| 18-19 | N 50°52' E | 49.21 M. |
| 19-20 | S 89°37' E | 13.05 M. |
| 20-21 | S 52°32' E | 18.89 M. |
| 21-1  | S 20°42' E | 19.48 M. |

Containing an area of twenty seven thousand fifteen (27,015) square meters.

**SEC. 2.** The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall issue the necessary implementing orders, rules, regulations and circulars to implement the provisions of this Act.

**SEC. 3.** All law, executive orders and other issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed and amended accordingly.

**SEC. 4.** This Act shall take effect immediately after approval.

*Approved,*