



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6681

BY REPRESENTATIVES LANETE AND NOGRALES (K.A.), PER COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 478

AN ACT DECLARING THE PORTA VEGA BEACH AND
THE SHORELINES OF BARANGAYS T.R. YANGCO,
CADULAN AND DIVISORIA, ALL LOCATED IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF DIMASALANG, PROVINCE OF
MASBATE AN ECOTOURISM SITE, ESTABLISHING
THE PORTA VEGA ECOTOURISM COUNCIL AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Porta Vega
2 Ecotourism Act".

3 SEC. 2. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure
4 the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology through
5 the promotion of activities designed for environmental protection
6 and conservation.

7 SEC. 3. The Porta Vega Beach and the shorelines of
8 Barangays T.R. Yangco, Cadulan and Divisoria, all located in the
9 Municipality of Dimasalang, Province of Masbate are hereby
10 declared an ecotourism site. As such, their development shall be

1 prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be
2 subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of
3 ecotourism sites.

4 SEC. 4. There is hereby created an ecotourism council, to be
5 known as the Porta Vega Ecotourism Council, hereinafter referred
6 to as the Council, to be composed of the following:

7 (a) The Mayor of the Municipality of Dimasalang, as
8 Chairperson;

9 (b) The Chairperson of the Dimasalang Sangguniang Bayan
10 Committee on Tourism;

11 (c) The Chairperson of the Dimasalang Sangguniang Bayan
12 Committee on Peace and Order;

13 (d) The Chairperson of the Dimasalang Sangguniang Bayan
14 Committee on Environment;

15 (e) The President of the Dimasalang Association of Barangay
16 Captains;

17 (f) A representative from the Office of the Third
18 Congressional District of Masbate; and

19 (g) Five (5) representatives, to be appointed by the local
20 legislative body, from the following sectors: owners of resorts along
21 the shorelines of Barangays T.R. Yangco, Cadulan and Divisoria;
22 accredited nongovernment organizations and people's organizations
23 engaged in ecotourism; recognized indigenous people's federation;
24 reputable travel organizations; and the academe.

25 The representative members shall serve for a term of five (5)
26 years, and their appointment may be renewed for another term.

1 The DOT and Department of Environment and Natural
2 Resources shall assist the Council in its task of pursuing the
3 objectives of this Act.

4 SEC. 5. The Council shall have the following responsibilities:

5 (a) Study, adopt, and from time to time update an
6 ecotourism master plan and supervise the implementation of the
7 corresponding programs and activities therein;

8 (b) Assess and evaluate the potential impact of development
9 to the environmental safety and well-being of the site;

10 (c) Conduct consultations with the local residents of the
11 site to be affected by ecotourism development to assimilate their
12 cultural values and beliefs in the master plan and other
13 programs;

14 (d) Provide technical and financial assistance to
15 communities in the site;

16 (e) Formulate rules and regulations which shall prohibit
17 illegal fishing and related activities; and

18 (f) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to
19 carry out the objectives of this Act.

20 SEC. 6. The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the
21 Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding
22 of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act
23 and from internally generated funds of the DOT.

24 SEC. 7. If any part or provision of this Act shall be held
25 unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions which are not affected
26 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

1 SEC. 8. All laws, issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with
2 this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

3 SEC. 9. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
4 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general
5 circulation.

Approved,

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