



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8726

BY REPRESENTATIVES LANETE, NOGRALES (K.A.) AND BATOCABE,
PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1005

AN ACT DECLARING THE ISLANDS OF NAGARAO,
NABOCTOT, AND GUIN-AWAYAN, ALL LOCATED IN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF PLACER, PROVINCE OF
MASBATE AN ECOTOURISM ZONE, ESTABLISHING
THE PLACER ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
2 ensure the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology
3 through the promotion of activities designed for environmental
4 protection and conservation.

5 SEC. 2. The islands of Nagarao, Naboctot, and Guin-awayan,
6 all located in the Municipality of Placer, Province of Masbate are
7 collectively declared an ecotourism zone.

8 SEC. 3. The Placer Ecotourism Development Council,
9 hereinafter referred to as the Council, is hereby created with the
10 following as members:

11 (a) The Secretary of the Department of Tourism (DOT), as
12 Chairperson;

1 (b) The Mayor of the Municipality of Placer, as
2 Co-Chairperson;

3 (c) A representative from the Department of Environment
4 and Natural Resources (DENR); and

5 (d) Four (4) representatives, to be appointed by the local
6 legislative body, from the following sectors: accredited
7 nongovernment organizations and people's organizations engaged in
8 ecotourism; recognized indigenous people's federation; reputable
9 travel organizations; and the academe.

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

12 The DOT and the DENR shall assist the Council in carrying
13 out the objectives of this Act.

14 SEC. 4. The Council shall have the following functions and
15 responsibilities:

16 (a) Adopt and update an ecotourism master plan and
17 supervise the implementation of the corresponding programs and
18 activities therein;

19 (b) Assess and evaluate the potential impact of development
20 to the environmental safety and well-being of the ecotourism zone;

21 (c) Conduct consultations with local residents who are
22 affected by ecotourism development to assimilate their cultural
23 values and beliefs in the master plan and other programs;

24 (d) Provide technical and financial assistance to
25 communities in the ecotourism zone;

26 (e) Formulate rules and regulations which shall prohibit
27 illegal fishing and related activities; and

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

1 SEC. 5. The Secretaries of the DOT and the DENR shall
2 include in their respective Department's program the
3 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included
4 in the annual General Appropriations Act and from internally
5 generated funds of the DOT.

6 SEC. 6. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act,
7 the DOT shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the
8 implementation of this Act.

9 SEC. 7. If any part or provision of this Act is declared
10 unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions which are not affected
11 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

12 SEC. 8. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules
13 and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof contrary to or
14 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
15 amended accordingly.

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

Approved,

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