

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8146

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BY REPRESENTATIVES DIMAPORO (M.K.) AND DIMAPORO (A.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 630

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AN ACT

**DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA (TDA), CREATING THE LANA DEL NORTE TOURISM COUNCIL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1           **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Lanao del Norte Tourism  
2 Development Area Act”.

3           **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
4 promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative,  
5 culturally sensitive, economically viable and equitably beneficial to local communities.

6           **Sec. 3. Scope and Coverage.** – The Province of Lanao del Norte is hereby declared a  
7 tourism development area (TDA). The Lanao del Norte TDA shall cover its municipalities  
8 endowed with natural beauty, small islands, waterfalls, springs, rivers, caves, beaches, sea  
9 and mountain resources, historical and natural landmarks, indigenous communities and other  
10 areas of interest to the tourism industry.

1 As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT),  
2 subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourism development areas.

3 **Sec. 4. *Tourism Development Plan.*** – Within one year after the approval of this Act,  
4 the DOT shall prepare a tourism development plan for the Province of Lanao del Norte and  
5 shall incorporate the same in the DOT’s overall National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP)  
6 pursuant to Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as the “Tourism Act of 2009”. Said  
7 tourism development plan shall be jointly implemented with the local government units  
8 concerned and the Lanao del Norte Provincial Tourism Council, taking into consideration  
9 Republic Act No. 7586, otherwise known as the “National Integrated Protected Areas System  
10 Act of 1992” and its implementing rules and regulations.

11 The DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone  
12 Authority (TIEZA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other  
13 concerned agencies of the government, shall delineate well-defined geographic areas within  
14 the Lanao del Norte TDA and coordinate the integrated development of these areas for the  
15 optimum use of natural assets and attractions, as well as existing facilities.

16 The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), in coordination with the  
17 DOT and the Lanao del Norte Provincial Tourism Council, shall set in place the necessary  
18 construction and improvement of roads and other infrastructure upon the promulgation of this  
19 Act and incorporate the same in its infrastructure program.

20 **Sec. 5. *Lanao del Norte Provincial Tourism Council.*** - The Provincial Governor of  
21 Lanao del Norte shall create the Lanao del Norte Provincial Tourism Council, hereinafter  
22 referred to as the “Council”, which shall be composed of government and private sector  
23 representatives.

24 The Council shall have the following functions:

1 a) Formulate programs and recommendations to develop local tourism facilities and  
2 attractions tapping local resources and funds:

3 b) Assist in the regulation and supervision of tourism-oriented establishments thereby  
4 ensuring wholesome and clean tourism activities;

5 c) Assist in monitoring the implementation of the Local Government Code on the  
6 matter of licensing of tourism establishments in the locality to ascertain safe and  
7 enjoyable stay of travelers;

8 d) Strictly enforce sanitary standards in public restrooms frequented by public utility  
9 vehicles and tourist transport services, i.e. gasoline stations, restaurants along main  
10 highways and bus stops; and

11 e) Perform other duties in accordance with the Department of Interior and Local  
12 Government's (DILG) Guidelines.

13 The provincial government of Lanao del Norte shall provide a Secretariat for the  
14 Council including the funding necessary to cover expenses for the performance of its official  
15 functions and activities.

16 **Sec. 6. Lanao del Norte Tourism Development Trust Fund.** - There is hereby  
17 established a trust fund to be known as the Lanao del Norte Tourism Development Trust  
18 Fund, for the purpose of financing projects which shall enhance tourism in the Province. The  
19 Trust Fund shall be administered by a Trust Fund Administrator under the Provincial  
20 Tourism Office of Lanao del Norte. Funds shall be derived from fees collected from tourists,  
21 other resources from the Province, proceeds from the registration and lease of multiple-use  
22 areas, including tourism concessions, fees, proceeds and contributions from industries and  
23 facilities directly benefiting the Province.

24 The Trust Fund may be augmented by grants and donations, endowments from  
25 various sources, domestic or foreign entities and individuals, for purposes related to their

1 functions. *Provided*, That disbursements therefrom shall be in accordance with existing  
2 accounting and auditing rules and regulations. *Provided, further*, That the Trust Fund shall  
3 not be used to cover personnel services expenditures.

4 **Sec. 7. Appropriations.** – The Secretaries of the DOT, DENR and DPWH shall  
5 include in their respective Departments’ programs the implementation of this Act, the  
6 funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and internally  
7 generated funds of the DOT.

8 **Sec. 8. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act shall be declared  
9 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force  
10 and effect.

11 **Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders,  
12 presidential decrees and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are  
13 hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

14 **Sec. 10. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
15 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

16 Approved,  
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