



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8773

BY REPRESENTATIVE DIMAPORO (M.K.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 764

AN ACT

DECLARING THE BALO-I MAN-MADE LAKE AND ITS IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALO-I, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a sustainable
2 ecotourism industry to attract local and foreign tourists while making them aware of the urgent
3 need to conserve our natural resources.

4 **Sec. 2.** The Balo-i Man-Made Lake and its immediate environs located in the
5 Municipality of Balo-i, Province of Lanao del Norte, is declared an ecotourism zone. As such,
6 its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules
7 and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.

8 **Sec. 3.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the Tourism Infrastructure
9 and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), in coordination with the DOT and the Department of
10 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), shall prepare an ecotourism development plan
11 containing the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and
12 infrastructure that shall improve the features of the ecotourism zone thereby ensuring its
13 accessibility and the security of tourists. The development plan shall be submitted to the
14 Province of Lanao del Norte Tourism Council for approval.

1 **Sec. 4.** The Secretaries of the DOT and DENR shall include in their respective
2 Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included
3 in the annual General Appropriations Act, and shall augment such allocation with internally
4 generated funds of the DOT.

5 **Sec. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in consultation
6 with the DENR, TIEZA and the local government unit of Balo-i, shall promulgate the necessary
7 rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

8 **Sec. 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*
9 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

10 *Approved,*