



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**H. No. 8853**

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BY REPRESENTATIVE MERCADO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 789

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**AN ACT  
DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE A TOURISM ZONE,  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1           **SECTION 1.** The Province of Southern Leyte is hereby declared a tourism  
2 zone. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism  
3 (DOT) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), subject to the  
4 rules and regulations governing the development of tourism zones.

5           **SEC. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in  
6 coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and other  
7 concerned agencies of the government, shall prepare a tourism development plan  
8 providing for the development, maintenance, improvement and restoration of tourism  
9 sites, where appropriate, in conformity with set standards, including the construction  
10 of hotels, resorts, restaurants, recreational facilities and other appropriate facilities and  
11 infrastructure: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation of  
12 the ecological balance and natural beauty of the area.

1           **SEC. 3.** The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the development  
2 plan and incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the ensuing  
3 calendar year.

4           **SEC. 4.** Upon the promulgation of this Act, the DPWH, in coordination with  
5 the DOT, shall implement the construction and improvement of roads and other  
6 infrastructure necessary in the development of the Province of Southern Leyte and  
7 incorporate the same in the Department's infrastructure program.

8           **SEC. 5.** The Secretaries of the DOT and DPWH shall include in their  
9 respective Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of  
10 which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act, and shall augment  
11 such allocation with internally generated funds of the DOT.

12           **SEC. 6.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT shall  
13 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this  
14 Act.

15           **SEC. 7.** All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, proclamations,  
16 presidential decrees and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this  
17 Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,