



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8966

BY REPRESENTATIVES ESPINO, ARAGONES, BASCUG, UY (J.), VIOLAGO, GATO, CABREDO, CELESTE AND SAULOG, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 839

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE DOWNSTREAM AGNO RIVER IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF
URBIZTONDO, MANGATAREM, AGUILAR, BUGALLON AND LINGAYEN,
PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, 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.** The downstream Agno River located in the Municipalities of Urbiztondo,
2 Mangatarem, Aguilar, Bugallon and Lingayen in the Province of Pangasinan is hereby declared an
3 ecotourism zone. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism
4 (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.

5 **SEC. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with
6 the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Bureau of Fisheries and
7 Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Department of Agriculture, provincial government of
8 Pangasinan, and the municipal governments of Urbiztondo, Mangatarem, Aguilar, Bugallon and
9 Lingayen, shall jointly prepare an ecotourism development plan including the construction,

1 installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall enhance
2 ecotourism in the area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation,
3 conservation and optimum utilization of available assets and resources in the area.

4 **SEC. 3.** The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the development plan and
5 incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year. It shall
6 also include the downstream Agno River in all its national, regional and local promotions
7 programs.

8 **SEC. 4.** The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the
9 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
10 Appropriations Act, and shall augment such allocation with internally generated funds of the
11 Department.

12 **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in consultation
13 with the concerned national government agencies and local government units, shall promulgate
14 the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

15 **SEC. 6.** All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, proclamations, presidential decrees
16 and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed
17 or amended accordingly.

18 **SEC. 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*
19 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

20 *Approved,*