



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9361

BY REPRESENTATIVES ABUEG-ZALDIVAR, GONZALEZ AND LUSOTAN, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 970

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALABAC, PROVINCE OF
PALAWAN, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE, PROVIDING FOR ITS
DEVELOPMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The Municipality of Balabac is hereby declared an ecotourism
2 zone. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism
3 (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism
4 zones.

5 **Sec. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT shall, in
6 coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA),
7 the municipal government of Balabac, the provincial government of Palawan, the
8 Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) and other concerned agencies
9 of the government, prepare a development plan that shall include the construction,
10 installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure to enhance
11 ecotourism in the area. The DOT shall identify well-defined geographic areas within the
12 ecotourism zone, which shall include the existing infrastructure and facilities therein,

1 and ensure the integrated development of these areas for the optimum utilization of
2 natural assets and attractions, as well as the preservation and conservation of its natural
3 beauty and historical significance.

4 The plan shall be implemented jointly with the municipal government of
5 Balabac, the provincial government of Palawan, PCSD, TIEZA and other concerned
6 government agencies.

7 **Sec. 3.** The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the development plan
8 and incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the calendar year
9 immediately succeeding the approval of this Act. It shall also include the Municipality
10 of Balabac in all its national, regional and local promotion programs.

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

15 **Sec. 5.** Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the DOT shall, in
16 consultation with the TIEZA, the municipal government of Balabac, the provincial
17 government of Palawan and the PCSD, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations
18 for the proper implementation of this Act.

19 **Sec. 6.** All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees and other issuances
20 inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed and
21 amended accordingly.

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

24 Approved,