

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9989

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BY REPRESENTATIVES SAVELLANO, ARAGONES, BASCUG, UY (J.), VIOLAGO, GATO, CABREDO,  
CELESTE, SAULOG AND ALONTE, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1133

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**AN ACT**  
**DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT**  
**AREA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1           **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as “Ilocos Sur Tourism  
2 Development Act”.

3           **Sec. 2. *Province of Ilocos Sur as Tourism Development Area.*** – The Province of Ilocos  
4 Sur is hereby declared a tourism development area. As such, its development shall be  
5 prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Department of Public Works and  
6 Highways (DPWH), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourism  
7 development areas.

8           **Sec. 3. *Tourism Development Plan.*** – The DOT, in coordination with the Tourism  
9 Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and other concerned agencies of the  
10 government, shall prepare a tourism development plan for the Province of Ilocos Sur, providing  
11 for the development, maintenance, improvement and restoration of tourism sites, where  
12 appropriate, in conformity with set standards, including the construction of hotels, resorts,  
13 restaurants, recreational facilities and other appropriate facilities and infrastructure: *Provided,*

1 That said development plan shall ensure the preservation of the ecological balance and natural  
2 beauty of the areas concerned. The DOT shall incorporate the tourism development plan to the  
3 overall National Tourism Development Plan pursuant to Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise  
4 known as the “Tourism Act of 2009”.

5 The tourism development plan shall be jointly implemented by the local government  
6 units concerned and the Provincial Tourism Council of Ilocos Sur. The DPWH, in coordination  
7 with the DOT, shall implement the construction of roads and other infrastructure necessary in  
8 the development of the Province of Ilocos Sur upon the promulgation of this Act and  
9 incorporate the same in its infrastructure program.

10 **Sec. 4. Ilocos Sur Tourism Council.** – a) There is hereby organized the Ilocos Sur  
11 Tourism Council, herein referred to as the Council, which shall be the primary policy-making,  
12 planning and coordinating body in the development of tourism in the Province of Ilocos Sur  
13 and administration of ecotourism sites therein.

14 The Council shall be composed of the following:

- 15 1) Provincial Governor of Ilocos Sur, as Chairperson;
- 16 2) Mayors of all the municipalities and cities of the Province of Ilocos Sur, who shall  
17 elect from among themselves the Council’s Vice Chairperson;
- 18 3) Representative of the First District of Ilocos Sur;
- 19 4) Representative of the Second District of Ilocos Sur;
- 20 5) Member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Ilocos Sur, duly designated by such  
21 body;
- 22 6) Regional Director of the DOT for Region 1;
- 23 7) Regional Director of the DPWH for Region 1;
- 24 8) Regional Director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for  
25 Region 1;

1 9) Regional Director of the National Economic Development Authority for Region 1;

2 and

3 10) Two (2) representatives from the private sector, nominated by the private sector  
4 tourism industry organizations in Ilocos Sur and appointed by the Chairperson of the  
5 Council, who shall serve for a period of two (2) years.

6 The Council may create such committees and provide for the functions and the  
7 memberships thereof to assist it in the proper and effective performance of its functions. It may  
8 call on other government agencies and offices to provide advice and assistance on matters  
9 relating to the performance of its functions and the development of tourism in the Province of  
10 Ilocos Sur.

11 b) The Council shall ensure that constituencies, sectors and groups, whose interests  
12 may be affected by the tourism development in the Province of Ilocos Sur, are given  
13 sufficient opportunities to be heard. It shall pursue consultations with relevant sectors  
14 and constituencies, conduct research, and engage the assistance of experts and other  
15 resource persons, as may be needed in the performance of its functions.

16 c) The Provincial Government of Ilocos Sur shall provide a Secretariat for the Council,  
17 and the necessary expenses for the performance of its official functions and activities.

18 d) The functions of the Council shall be harmonized with the functions and  
19 responsibilities of the Protected Area Management Boards (PAMBs), the Protected  
20 Area Management Offices (PAMOs), and the Regional Ecotourism Committee to avoid  
21 any overlap or conflict.

22 **Sec. 5. *Ilocos Sur Tourism Development Fund.*** – There is hereby established a trust  
23 fund to be known as the Ilocos Sur Tourism Development Trust Fund, to finance projects that  
24 shall enhance tourism in the Province of Ilocos Sur. Funds shall be derived from fees collected  
25 from visitors and tourists, other resources from the Province, proceeds from the registration

1 and lease of multiple-use areas, including tourism concessions, fees, proceeds and  
2 contributions from industries and facilities directly benefiting the Province.

3 The fund may be augmented by grants and donations, endowments from various  
4 sources, domestic or foreign entities and individuals, for purposes related to their functions:  
5 Provided, That disbursements, therefrom shall be in accordance with existing accounting and  
6 auditing rules and regulations: Provided, further, that the fund shall not be used to cover  
7 expenditures for personnel services.

8 The Trust Fund shall be administered by a Trust Fund Administrator under the  
9 Provincial Tourism Office of the Province of Ilocos Sur.

10 **Sec. 6. Appropriations.** – The Secretaries of the DOT and DPWH shall include in their  
11 respective Department’s program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall  
12 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and shall augment such allocation with  
13 internally generated funds of the DOT.

14 **Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days from the  
15 effectivity of this Act, the DOT shall, in coordination with the local government units of the  
16 Province of Ilocos Sur, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper  
17 implementation of this Act.

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

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

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

Approved,