

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9999

BY REPRESENTATIVES TAN (A.S.), GO (E.C.), ARAGONES, BASCUG, VIOLAGO, GATO, GO (M.),
MATUGAS, FARIÑAS (R.C.), EBCAS, BAÑAS-NOGRALES, DAGOOC, SAULOG, GUYA,
SAVELLANO, ALBANO (A.), BARBA, DY (F.), FRASCO, LOYOLA, SILVERIO, ELAGO, GONZALEZ
AND LUSOTAN, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1143

AN ACT
IDENTIFYING TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREAS IN THE PROVINCE OF
ISABELA, MANDATING SUPPORT FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT,
CREATING THE ISABELA TOURISM COUNCIL, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the
2 State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible,
3 participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable, and equitable for local
4 communities. To this end, the State shall endeavor to provide the proper mechanisms and
5 infrastructure for sustainable tourism development. It shall develop and promote certain
6 areas and sites identified as tourist destinations or attractions in order to drive and propel
7 inclusive growth throughout the country.

8 Pursuant thereto, all areas within the Province of Isabela endowed with natural
9 beauty or historical and cultural significance, with either existing or potential integrated

1 leisure facilities developed for one or more tourism purpose, shall be considered tourism
2 development areas.

3 **SEC. 2. *Identification and Declaration of Tourism Sites.*** – Areas in the Province
4 of Isabela that have potential for tourism shall be declared as ecotourism, cultural
5 heritage tourism, health and wellness tourism, general leisure tourism, or mixed use
6 tourism sites after consultation with the Department of Tourism (DOT): *Provided*, That
7 areas in environmentally protected areas shall not be declared tourism sites without
8 consultation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

9 The survey and verification of the areas shall be conducted by the National
10 Mapping and Resource Information Authority, in coordination with the Provincial
11 Government of Isabela.

12 **SEC. 3. *Isabela Tourism Council.*** – There is hereby created the Isabela Tourism
13 Council, hereinafter referred to as Council, which shall be the primary policy-making,
14 planning and coordinating body in the development of tourism in the Province of Isabela
15 and the administration of tourism sites therein. It shall be composed of the following
16 members:

- 17 a) Provincial Governor of Isabela, as Chairperson;
- 18 b) Municipal Mayors of all the municipalities and cities of the Province of Isabela,
19 who shall elect from among themselves the Council's Vice Chairperson;
- 20 c) Member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Isabela, duly designated by such
21 body; and
- 22 d) Two (2) representatives from the private sector, appointed by the Chairperson of
23 the Council, who shall serve for a period of two (2) years.

24 The Provincial Government of Isabela shall provide a Secretariat for the Council
25 including the funding necessary to cover expenses for the performance of its official
26 functions and activities.

1 **SEC. 4. *Functions of the Council.*** – The Council shall have the following
2 functions:

- 3 a) Identify and declare areas as tourism sites;
- 4 b) Formulate programs and recommendations and manage local resources and funds
5 to develop local tourism facilities and attractions;
- 6 c) Assist in the regulation and supervision of tourism-oriented establishments,
7 thereby ensuring wholesome and clean tourism activities;
- 8 d) Assist in monitoring the implementation of the Local Government Code on the
9 licensing of tourism establishments in the locality to ascertain safe and enjoyable
10 stay of travelers;
- 11 e) Strictly enforce health and sanitary standards in public restrooms frequented by
12 public utility vehicles and tourist transport services, i.e., gasoline stations and
13 restaurants along main highways and bus stops; and
- 14 f) Perform any other duties in accordance with the guidelines issued by the
15 Department of the Interior and Local Government.

16 **SEC. 5. *Isabela Tourism Development Plan.*** – The DOT shall, in coordination
17 with the Council and concerned local government units (LGUs) and agencies of the
18 government, prepare a tourism development plan for the Province of Isabela and
19 incorporate the same in its overall tourism development plan pursuant to Republic Act
20 No. 9593, otherwise known as the “Tourism Act of 2009”. The development plan shall
21 be jointly implemented with the concerned LGUs and the Council.

22 The concerned LGUs shall, in coordination with the DOT, DENR, the Tourism
23 Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and other concerned agencies of the
24 government, delineate well defined geographic areas within the tourism sites and
25 coordinate the integrated development of these sites for the optimal use of natural assets

1 and attractions, as well as of existing facilities: *Provided*, That said development plan
2 shall ensure the preservation of the ecological balance and natural beauty of the areas.

3 Upon the promulgation of this Act, the Department of Public Works and
4 Highways (DPWH) shall, in coordination with the DOT and the Council, implement the
5 construction and improvement of roads and other infrastructure necessary in the
6 development of tourism sites and shall incorporate the same in its infrastructure program.

7 **SEC. 6. Appropriations.** – The Secretaries of DOT, DPWH, DENR and
8 Department of Transportation (DOTr) shall include in their respective Department’s
9 program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the
10 annual General Appropriations Act and shall augment such allocation with internally
11 generated funds of the DOT.

12 **SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days from the
13 effectivity of this Act, the Council shall, in consultation with the DOT, DENR, DPWH,
14 DOTr, the National Economic and Development Authority and other concerned
15 government agencies and stakeholders, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations
16 for the proper implementation of this Act.

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

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

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

Approved,