

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE** )  
**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES** )  
*First Regular Session* )



23 APR 19 P1 :30

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**SENATE**  
**Senate Bill No. 2080**

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Introduced by: **Senator Raffy T. Tulfo**

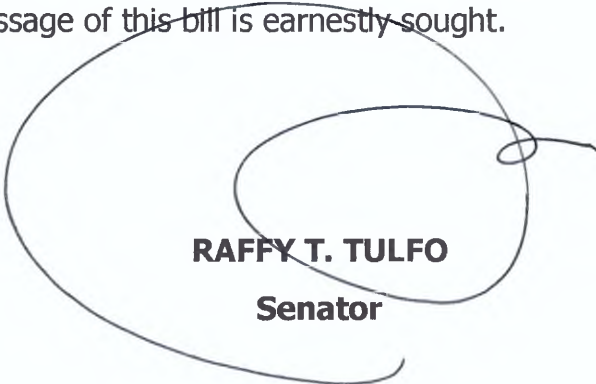
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**AN ACT**  
**IDENTIFYING TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREAS IN THE PROVINCE OF**  
**ISABELA, MANDATING SUPPORT FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT, THEREBY**  
**CREATING THE ISABELA TOURISM COUNCIL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS**  
**THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Province of Isabela is known to be the Trade and Industrial Center of Northeastern Luzon. It is known to be a home to numerous tourist destinations such as the Aguinaldo Shrine, Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park (NSMNP), and the Shrine of Our Lady of the Visitation of Guibang. The purpose of the proposed measure is to encourage the coordination between the local government units and the National Government and to formulate policies focused on maximizing the development of the growing tourism industry of the province.

In view of aforementioned considerations, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**RAFFY T. TULFO**  
**Senator**

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**THEREFOR**

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

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**Chapter 1**  
**Preliminary Provisions**

**SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative,

1 culturally sensitive, economically viable, and equitable for local communities. To this end,  
2 the State shall endeavor to provide the proper mechanisms and infrastructure for  
3 sustainable tourism development. It shall develop and promote certain areas and sites  
4 identified as tourist destinations or attractions in order to drive and propel inclusive  
5 growth throughout the country.

6  
7 Pursuant thereto, all areas within the Province of Isabela endowed with natural  
8 beauty or historical and cultural significance, with either existing or potential integrated  
9 leisure facilities developed for one or more tourism purpose, shall be considered tourism  
10 development areas.

11  
12 **SEC. 2. *Identification and Declaration of Tourism Sites.*** – All areas in the Province of  
13 Isabela that have potential for tourism shall be declared as ecotourism, cultural heritage  
14 tourism, health and wellness tourism, general leisure tourism, or mixed use tourism sites  
15 after consultation with the Department of Tourism (DOT).

16  
17 Provided, that areas in environmentally protected areas shall not be declared tourism  
18 sites without consultation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
19 (DENR).

20  
21 The survey and verification of the areas shall be conducted by the National Mapping and  
22 Resource Information Authority, in coordination with the Provincial Government of  
23 Isabela.

24  
25 **SEC. 3. *Isabela Tourism Council.*** - There is hereby created the Isabela Tourism Council,  
26 hereinafter referred to as Council, which shall be the primary policy-making, planning and  
27 coordinating body in the development of tourism in the Province of Isabela and the  
28 administration of tourism sites therein. It shall be composed of the following members:

- 1 a. The Provincial Governor of Isabela, as Chairperson;
- 2 b. The Municipal Mayors of all the municipalities and cities of the Province of Isabela, who
- 3 shall elect from among themselves the Council's Vice Chairperson;
- 4 c. A Member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Isabela, duly designated by such body;
- 5 and
- 6 d. Two (2) Representatives from the private sector, appointed by the Chairperson of the
- 7 Council, who shall serve for a period of two (2) years.

8

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

12

13 **SEC. 4. *Functions of the Council.*** - The Council shall have the following functions:

14

- 15 a. To identify and declare areas as tourism sites;
- 16 b. To formulate programs and recommendations and manage local resources and funds
- 17 to develop local tourism facilities and attractions;
- 18 c. To assist in the regulation and supervision of tourism-oriented establishments, thereby
- 19 ensuring wholesome and clean tourism activities;
- 20 d. To assist in the monitoring of the implementation of the Local Government Code on
- 21 the licensing of tourism establishments in the locality to ascertain safe and enjoyable stay
- 22 of travellers;
- 23 e. To strictly enforce health and sanitary standards in public restrooms frequented by
- 24 public utility vehicles and tourist transport services, i.e., gasoline stations and restaurants
- 25 along main highways and bus stops; and
- 26 f. To perform any other duties in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department
- 27 of the Interior and Local Government.

28

29 **SEC. 5. *Isabela Tourism Development Plan.*** - The DOT , in coordination with the Council  
30 and concerned local government units (LGUs) and agencies of the government, shall

1 prepare a tourism development plan for the province of Isabela and incorporate the same  
2 in its overall tourism development plan pursuant to Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise  
3 known as the "Tourism Act of 2009." The development plan shall be jointly implemented  
4 by the concerned LGUs and the Council.

5  
6 The concerned LGUs , in coordination with the DOT, DENR, the Tourism Infrastructure  
7 and Enterprise Zone Authority and other concerned agencies of the government, shall  
8 delineate well-defined geographic areas within the tourism sites and coordinate the  
9 integrated development of these sites for the optimal use of natural assets and  
10 attractions, as well as of existing facilities, Provided, that said development plan shall  
11 ensure the preservation of the ecological balance and natural beauty of the areas.

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

16  
17 **SEC. 6. Appropriations.** - The Secretaries of DOT, DPWH, DENR, and the Department of  
18 Transportation (DOT) shall include in their respective Department's program the  
19 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General  
20 Appropriations Act and shall augment such allocation with internally generated funds of  
21 the DOT.

22  
23 **SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity  
24 of this Act, the Council, in consultation with the DOT, DENR, DPWH, DOTr, the National  
25 Economic and Development Authority and other concerned government agencies and  
26 stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper  
27 implementation of this Act.

1 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** - If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is  
2 declared unconstitutional or invalid, other sections or provisions which are not affected  
3 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

4

5 **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order,  
6 letter of instruction, administrative order, proclamation, charter, rule or regulation and/or  
7 parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed,  
8 modified or amended accordingly.

9

10 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its  
11 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,