



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5962

BY REPRESENTATIVES GO (E.C.), MADRONA, CHATTO, ANGARA, ALVAREZ (J.), LUISTRO, RILLO, CHAN, AGARAO, ALMARIO, AUMENTADO, MATUGAS, SINGSON (R.), EMANO, GARCIA (M.A.), SALI, HORIBATA, ZAMORA (M.C.), DELOS SANTOS, ABUNDA, LAGON (D.), MANQUIZ, OUANO-DIZON, TUTOR, BUHAIN, CAGAS, TUPAS, GO (M.), GORRICETA, DALOG, YU (J.V.), CRUZ (R.), GATO, LIMKAICHONG, ESCUDERO, CARI, YU (D.G.), SALVAME, SACDALAN, KHO (R.), LEGARDA, GULLAS, MIGUEL, ALONTE, PLEYTO, GUTIERREZ, MAGSINO, PADIERNOS, GONZALES (A.), FRASCO, HERRERA, ALBANO, BASCUG, CABREDO, CHUNGALAO, COLLANTES, CUARESMA, KHO (O.), LOYOLA, MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, NAVA, OLIVAREZ, PLAZA, RODRIGUEZ (R.), SILVERIO AND SUANSING (M.A.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 150

AN ACT

DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN MARIANO AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF PALANAN, PROVINCE OF ISABELA, AS ECOTOURISM ZONES, TO BE JOINTLY KNOWN AS THE SAN MARIANO-PALANAN ECOTOURISM CORRIDOR

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The Municipality of San Mariano and the Municipality of Palanan in the
2 Province of Isabela are hereby declared as ecotourism zones, to be jointly known as the San
3 Mariano-Palanan Ecotourism Corridor. Pursuant thereto, the development of the San Mariano-
4 Palanan Ecotourism Corridor shall be prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism
5 (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.

6 **SEC. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the municipal governments
7 of San Mariano and Palanan shall, in coordination with the DOT, Department of Environment
8 and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH),
9 Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and concerned agencies of the
10 government, prepare a comprehensive tourism development plan for the San Mariano-Palanan

1 Ecotourism Corridor. The development plan shall include the identification, validation,
2 construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure to
3 enhance ecotourism in the areas: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the
4 preservation of the cultural heritage of the areas and the conservation of its biophysical assets,
5 and incorporate strategies and programs to promote sustainable economic opportunities for the
6 local communities: *Provided, further*, That the implementation of the tourism development
7 plan shall be included in the respective budgets of the municipal governments of San Mariano
8 and Palanan.

9 The municipal governments of San Mariano and Palanan, DOT, DPWH and TIEZA
10 shall prioritize the construction and completion of the San Mariano-Palanan Road in order to
11 ensure the accessibility of tourists.

12 **SEC. 3.** The DOT shall assist the municipal governments of San Mariano and Palanan
13 in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in
14 tourism capacity building. It shall also include the San Mariano-Palanan Ecotourism Corridor
15 in its national and regional promotion programs.

16 **SEC. 4.** The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the
17 respective annual budgets of the municipal governments of San Mariano and Palanan. The
18 DOT may augment such allocation with internally-generated funds.

19 **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the municipal
20 governments of San Mariano and Palanan shall, in consultation with the DOT and concerned
21 agencies of the government, promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.

22 **SEC. 6.** If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the
23 other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

24 **SEC. 7.** All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, proclamations, presidential
25 decrees and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby
26 deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

1 **SEC. 8.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*
2 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,