



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6474

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BY REPRESENTATIVES DY (F.), 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, GO (E.C.), 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, CHUNGALAO, COLLANTES, CUARESMA, KHO (O.), LOYOLA, MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, NAVA, OLIVAREZ, PLAZA, RODRIGUEZ (R.), SILVERIO AND SUANSING (M.A.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 196

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AN ACT  
DECLARING BARANGAY SAN MIGUEL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF  
ECHAGUE, PROVINCE OF ISABELA, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE

*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 the “San Miguel Ecotourism Zone  
2 Act.”

3           **Sec. 2.** *Barangay San Miguel as Ecotourism Zone.* – Barangay San Miguel in the  
4 Municipality of Echague, Province of Isabela, is hereby declared an ecotourism zone. Pursuant

1 thereto, its development shall be prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism  
2 (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.

3 **Sec. 3. San Miguel Ecotourism Development Council.** – The San Miguel Ecotourism  
4 Development Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, is hereby created. It shall be  
5 composed of ten (10) members, as follows:

6 a) *Ex-Officio* Members

- 7 1) DOT Regional Director for Region 2, as Chairperson;
- 8 2) Mayor of the Municipality of Echague, as Co-Chairperson;
- 9 3) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Regional Director for  
10 Region 2, or a duly authorized representative;
- 11 4) Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Regional Director for Region  
12 2, or a duly authorized representative;
- 13 5) Punong Barangay of Barangay San Miguel;
- 14 6) Provincial Tourism Officer of the Province of Isabela; and
- 15 7) Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer of the Province of Isabela.

16 b) Members Who Shall Represent Sectoral Concerns

- 17 1) One (1) representative from an academic institution, preferably from a university or  
18 college in the Province of Isabela, with proven track record in or related to the  
19 conservation of forests and wildlife;
- 20 2) One (1) representative from the private sector, preferably a resident of the Province of  
21 Isabela, who is distinguished in a profession or field of interest relevant to the  
22 conservation of forests and wildlife or to ecotourism; and
- 23 3) One (1) representative from either non-government organization (NGO) or people's  
24 organization (PO), duly accredited both by the DENR and the municipal government

1 of Echague. The NGO or PO represented should have been in existence for at least  
2 five (5) years with a track record in the conservation of forests and wildlife.

3 The *ex-officio* elective members of the Council shall serve for the duration of their  
4 respective terms of office to which they are elected.

5 The *ex-officio* appointive members of the Council shall serve for the duration of the  
6 period they hold the office to which they are appointed.

7 The sectoral members of the Council shall be selected by the Sangguniang Bayan of  
8 the Municipality of Echague in a fair and transparent manner. They shall each serve a term of  
9 three (3) years and may be reappointed for another term.

10 The members of the Council shall serve without compensation, but shall be authorized  
11 to actual and necessary travel and subsistence expenses incurred in the performance of their  
12 duties, either in their attendance in meetings of the Council or in connection with their official  
13 functions authorized by a resolution of the Council, subject to existing rules and regulations.

14 Each member shall have the full capacity and accountability for decisions binding to the  
15 member 's sector.

16 A member of the Council may be removed for any of the following grounds:

- 17 a) more than three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from regular meetings of the  
18 Council;
- 19 b) commission of acts prejudicial to the development and management of the ecotourism  
20 zone;
- 21 c) disassociation from the office or organization being represented;
- 22 d) termination of relationship the office or organization being represented; or
- 23 e) conviction by final judgment of any criminal act.

24 The municipal government of Echague shall provide a Secretariat for the Council, to  
25 be headed by the Municipal Tourism Officer, and provide funds to defray the expenses of the

1 Secretariat in line with the performance of its official functions and the conduct of the Council's  
2 activities.

3 **Sec. 4. *Functions and Responsibilities of the Council.*** – The Council shall have the  
4 following functions and responsibilities

5 a. Formulate and implement an ecotourism development and management plan in  
6 consultation with the local residents, businesses and other stakeholders;

7 b. Assess and evaluate the potential impact of development plans and activities to the  
8 environmental safety and well-being of the zone, communities and enterprises;

9 c. Provide technical and financial assistance to the communities within and surrounding  
10 the ecotourism zone:

11 d. Formulate rules and regulations in relation to the maintenance and security of the  
12 ecotourism zone; and

13 d. Perform other functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

14 **Sec. 5. *Formulation of Standards and Guidelines.*** – The DOT and the DENR shall assist  
15 the Council in the formulation of local ecotourism standards and recommend guidelines to  
16 ensure that biodiversity conservation and environmental protection are integrated in the  
17 development and management of the ecotourism zone.

18 These local ecotourism standards shall:

19 a. Raise the capacity of all stakeholders and ensure that best ecotourism practices are  
20 adopted;

21 b. Ensure optimal use of water and energy;

22 c. Reduce waste and pollution through environmentally-sound waste management  
23 disposal schemes;

24 d. Encourage the use of local produce and services, and support the employment of local  
25 people; and

1 e. Prevent vandalism in the ecotourism zone.

2 **Sec. 6. *Role of the DOT.*** – The DOT shall assist the municipal government of Echague  
3 in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in  
4 tourism capacity building. It shall also include the Municipality of Echague in its national and  
5 regional promotion programs.

6 **Sec. 7. *Coordination with National Agencies.*** – The Council shall coordinate with the  
7 regional and provincial offices of the DOT, DENR, Department of Public Works and  
8 Highways, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Transportation, Department  
9 of Agriculture, Department of Education, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of  
10 Interior and Local Government, Philippine National Police and other concerned agencies of the  
11 government in the implementation of this Act.

12 **Sec. 8. *Appropriations.*** – The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be  
13 included in the annual budget of the municipal of government of Echague. The DOT may  
14 augment such allocation with internally-generated funds.

15 **Sec. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (60) days from the  
16 effectivity of this Act, the municipal government of Echague shall, in consultation with the  
17 DOT and concerned agencies of the government, promulgate rules and regulations to  
18 implement this Act.

19 **Sec. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders,  
20 proclamations, presidential decrees and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions  
21 of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

22 **Sec. 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in  
23 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,