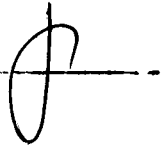


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

23 SEP 12 P4:37

SENATE
S. No. 2435

RECEIVED BY. _____



Introduced by Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" T. Go

AN ACT
DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, A TOURISM ZONE AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Province of Southern Leyte, located in the Eastern Visayas region, boasts a rich natural landscape, pristine beaches, diverse marine life, and cultural heritage. Recognizing its tourism potential and the significant role of the tourism industry in economic growth, this proposal aims to declare the Province of Southern Leyte as a tourism zone to attract more investments and promote sustainable development.

The tourism zone declaration will encourage responsible and sustainable tourism practices. With increased attention to the region, there will be greater awareness and appreciation of Southern Leyte's unique cultural heritage and pristine natural resources. This, in turn, will foster local pride and stimulate efforts to preserve and protect these valuable assets for future generations.

This tourism zone declaration will also encourage the national government to prioritize and allocate funds for infrastructure development projects in the province. Upgrading and expanding existing transportation networks and infrastructure will facilitate better accessibility to tourist destinations. It will also directly contribute to enhancing the visitor experience and increasing Southern Leyte's attractiveness as a

tourism destination, while also improving the overall quality of life for the local population.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bong T. Go', written over the printed name.

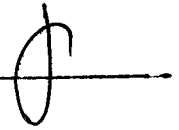
SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO

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**AN ACT
DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, A TOURISM ZONE AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 SECTION 1. The Province of Southern Leyte is hereby declared a tourism zone.
2 As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and
3 the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and shall be subject to the
4 rules and regulations governing the development of tourism zones.

5

6 Sec. 2. The DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise
7 Zone Authority and other concerned agencies of the government, shall prepare a
8 tourism development plan providing for the development, maintenance, improvement
9 and restoration of tourist sites, where appropriate, in conformity with set standards,
10 including the construction of hotels, resorts, restaurants, recreational facilities and
11 other appropriate facilities and infrastructure: Provided, That said development plan
12 shall ensure the preservation of the ecological balance and natural beauty of the area.

13

14 Sec. 3. The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the development plan
15 and incorporate the same in the Department's overall tourism development program
16 for the ensuing calendar year.

17

1 Sec. 4. Upon the promulgation of this Act, the DPWH, in coordination with the
2 DOT, shall implement the construction and improvement of roads and other
3 infrastructure necessary in the development of the Province of Southern Leyte, and
4 incorporate the same in the Department's infrastructure program.

5
6 Sec. 5. The Secretary of the DOT and the Secretary of the DPWH shall include
7 in their respective Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding
8 of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and from internally
9 generated funds of the DOT.

10
11 Sec. 6. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT shall
12 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this
13 Act.

14
15 Sec. 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules
16 and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of
17 this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

18
19 Sec. 8. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
20 publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,