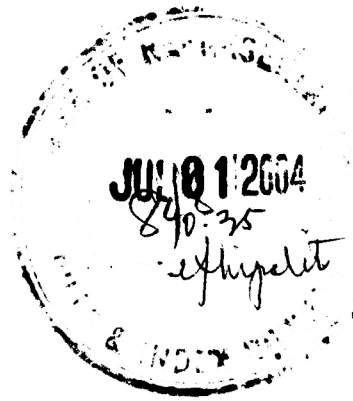


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 848

Introduced by Hon. Aurelio "Oyie" Matias Umali

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is endowed with great scenic beauty, historically significant sites, natural resources and a population whose traditions are attractive to tourists. These assets must be preserved and nurtured, not only because they are appreciated by others but because they are valued by the country's very own citizens. Tourism has always played a vital role in the growth of the country's economy. The pecuniary gains, which may be derived through tourists spending, foreign exchange earnings, and employment-generation contribute largely to the stability of the economy.

The national government for the past years, has encouraged tourism and recreation explicitly in a number of decrees, executive orders, and legislative enactments. The development and promotion of tourism, however, has been confined largely to the Department of Tourism, which is tasked solely with the formulation of the country's plans, programs and strategies for the tourism industry. Our country is composed of more than 1,700 islands, with more than 80 million Filipinos of diverse ethnic origins, the Department of Tourism needs the proper support in developing the vast potentials of tourism to a level where the country may derive optimum benefits.

There is a need therefore to lay down integrated and coordinated policies, plans and strategies down to the Local Government Unit to address the aforementioned problem. Local Government Units, because of their familiarity with their respective parochial character can serve ideal in achieving the national goal towards the fullest development of tourism in the country. It is in this consideration that we are filing this Bill which mandates the designation of Tourism Officers in provinces, cities and municipalities, declared or an area, classified as a tourism destination zone and to areas where tourism is considered a major local industry.

AURELIO "OYIE" MATIAS UMALI
Representative
3rd District, Nueva Ecija

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE DESIGNATION OF AT LEAST ONE TOURISM OFFICER IN EVERY MUNICIPALITY AND CITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Sec. 1. There is hereby provided one (1) Tourism Officer in every Municipality and City that would promote the economic, social and cultural development of their respective areas through income generating tourism promotions and development programs and projects.

Sec. 2. Priority will be given to Municipalities or cities where tourism is considered as a major local industry.

Sec. 3. The Department of Tourism shall issue rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 4. The amount necessary for the purpose of this Act shall be funded out of the appropriations of the Department of Tourism. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual appropriations act.

Sec. 5. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved.