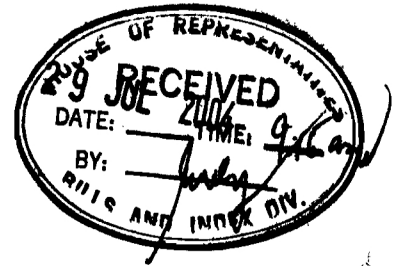


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill NO. 1872



Introduced by HON. EDGAR M. CHATTO
1ST DISTRICT, BOHOL

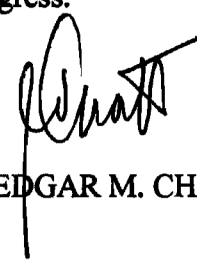
EXPLANATORY NOTE

To market the country as a tourist haven and as an investment and convention site, tourist destinations should be accessible; indigenous products developed and promoted in the local and foreign markets at affordable prices; and an increased recognition of tourism as a culture as well as a viable industry should be inculcated among our people.

Presently, however, among the two foremost challenges confronting this industry are accessibility to basic tourism information and services and lack of a comprehensive approach to its development; resulting in a slow increase in tourist arrival. In 1999, the Philippines ranked fifth among ASEAN members in terms of visitor arrivals with 2.2 million tourists. It lagged behind Thailand (8.7 million), Malaysia (7.9 million), Singapore (6.9 million), and Indonesia (4.3 million).

This bill seeks to address these issues by creating the position of tourism officer in all provinces, first class municipalities and cities, or municipalities and cities where tourism is considered a major local industry.

During the 12th Congress, this bill was referred to the House Committee on Local Government on 1st Reading. But due to time constraints, it was never taken up again. This bill is therefore re-filed for the consideration of this Congress.


REP. EDGAR M. CHATTO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill NO. 1872

Introduced by HON. EDGAR M. CHATTO
1ST DISTRICT, BOHOL

AN ACT CREATING THE POSITION OF TOURISM OFFICER IN ALL PROVINCES, FIRST CLASS MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES, OR MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES WHERE TOURISM IS CONSIDERED A MAJOR LOCAL INDUSTRY, AND DEFINING ITS QUALIFICATIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE

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

SECTION 1. Section 443, Book III, Title Two, Chapter 2 of Republic Act NO. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 443. *Officials of the Municipal Government.* –

X X X

(C) THERE SHALL BE A MUNICIPAL TOURISM OFFICER IN FIRST CLASS MUNICIPALITIES OR MUNICIPALITIES WHERE TOURISM IS CONSIDERED A MAJOR LOCAL INDUSTRY.

X X X

SECTION 2. Section 454, Book III, Title Three, Chapter 2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 454. Officials of the City Government. –

X X X

(C) THERE SHALL BE A CITY TOURISM OFFICER IN FIRST CLASS CITIES OR CITIES WHERE TOURISM IS CONSIDERED A MAJOR LOCAL INDUSTRY.

X X X

SECTION 3. Section 463, Book III, Title Four, Chapter 2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 463. Officials of the Provincial Government. – (a) There shall be in each province a governor, a vice-governor, members of the sangguniang panlalawigan, a secretary to the sangguniang panlalawigan, a provincial treasurer, a provincial assessor, a provincial accountant, x x x a provincial agriculturist, [and] a provincial veterinarian [.] , AND A PROVINCIAL TOURISM OFFICER.

SECTION 4. Book III is hereby amended by inserting a new Article under Title Five, herein referred to as Article 21, which shall be read as follows:

ARTICLE 21 – THE TOURISM OFFICER

SECTION 491. *QUALIFICATIONS, –* NO PERSON SHALL BE APPOINTED TOURISM OFFICER UNLESS HE IS A CITIZEN OF THE PHILIPPINES, A RESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED, OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER, A HOLDER OF A COLLEGE DEGREE WITH SPECIALIZED TRAINING IN TOURISM ADMINISTRATION FROM A RECOGNIZED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY AND A FIRST GRADE CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBLE OR ITS EQUIVALENT. HE MUST HAVE

ACQUIRED EXPERIENCE IN TOURISM ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING TOURISM MANAGEMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND CONTROL, OR AT LEAST THREE (3) YEARS IN THE CASE OF THE CITY TOURISM OFFICER OR ONE (1) YEAR IN THE CASE OF THE MUNICIPAL TOURISM OFFICER.

THE APPOINTMENT OF THE TOURISM OFFICER IS MANDATORY FOR CITY AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS, *PROVIDED*, THAT, SAID CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES FALL UNDER THE FIRST CLASS CATEGORY, OR THAT TOURISM IS CONSIDERED AS A MAJOR LOCAL INDUSTRY IN SAID CITY OR MUNICIPALITY. ALL PROVINCES, FIRST CLASS CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES, OR CITIES OR MUNICIPALITIES WHERE TOURISM IS A MAJOR LOCAL INDUSTRY.

SECTION 492. *POWERS AND DUTIES.*

– THE TOURISM OFFICER SHALL TAKE CHARGE OF THE OFFICE ON TOURISM SERVICES AND SHALL:

- (A) FORMULATE MEASURES FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, AS THE CASE MAY BE, IN CARRYING OUT MEASURES TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF BASIC TOURISM SERVICES AND ACCESS TO TOURISM FACILITIES;
- (B) DEVELOP A TOURISM MASTER PLAN FOR THE AREA, IN CONSONANCE WITH THE NATIONAL TOURISM POLICIES OF GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS OTHER TOURISM-RELATED PLANS AND STRATEGIES AND, UPON APPROVAL THEREOF BY

THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, IMPLEMENT THE SAME, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHICH HAVE TO DO WITH TOURISM ADMINISTRATION, TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS WHICH THE SANGGUNIAN IS EMPOWERED TO PROVIDE FOR UNDER THIS CODE;

(C) IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING, THE TOURISM OFFICER SHALL:

- 1.) INITIATE THE SUPPORT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS THAT WILL DEVELOP, ENHANCE AND PROMOTE TOURISM AS A MAJOR INDUSTRY IN THE AREA;
- 2.) COORDINATE WITH CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVED IN TOURISM, ON THE DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCEMENT AND PROMOTION OF TOURISM;
- 3.) ASSIST THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, AS THE CASE MAY BE, IN THE EVALUATION OF TOURISM-RELATED ESTABLISHMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF LICENSE OR PERMIT TO OPERATE;
- 4.) ASSIST THE CONCERNED REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM IN THE EVALUATION OF TOURISM-RELATED ESTABLISHMENTS FOR

- THE PURPOSE OF
ACCREDITATION;
5.) RECOMMEND TO THE
SANGGUNIAN AND
ADVISE THE GOVERNOR
OR MAYOR AS THE CASE
MAY BE, ON ALL
MATTERS RELATIVE TO
THE PROMOTION OF
TOURISM AND
PRESERVATION OF
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS
AND VALUES OF THE
AREA.

(D) EXERCISE SUCH OTHER POWERS
AND PERFORM SUCH OTHER
DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS AS MAY
BE PRESCRIBED BY LAW OR
ORDINANCE.

SECTION 5. All laws, decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act shall be amended or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 6. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions thereof.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,