

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**SIXTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2698



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**Introduced by REP. ANTHONY G. DEL ROSARIO**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to declare as an eco-cultural tourism zone the Municipality of Talaingod in Davao del Norte and establish thereby a Cultural Heritage Village.

The Philippine Constitution, under Sec. 22 of Art. II provides that "the State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development. The Constitution also provides under Sec. 17 Art. XIV, that the State shall recognize, respect and protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to preserve and develop their cultures, traditions, and institutions. It shall consider these rights in the formulation of national plans and policies.

Republic Act 9593 or the Tourism Act of 2009, as a matter of policy declared tourism as an indispensable element of the national economy and an industry of national interest and importance, which must be harnessed as an engine of socio- economic growth and cultural affirmation to generate investment, foreign exchange and employment, and to continue to mold an enhanced sense of national pride for all Filipinos.

Considering these Constitutional and statutory provisions, the proposed measure aims for the Municipality of Talaingod in the province of Davao del Norte to be declared as an eco-cultural tourism zone and seeks to establish a cultural heritage village that will promote and develop the distinctive customs and traditions of the indigenous peoples of the area.

Primarily as a result of it's topography, Talaingod has a vantage view of the nearby Municipalities of Kapalong and Sto. Tomas to the east, the City of Panabo towards southeast and, due south, the Cities of Davao and the Island Garden City of Samal(IGACOS). Natural landscapes and pristine waters from lakes and rivers offer breathtaking experience for travellers wanting to escape the concrete jungle of the city and retire to the laidback rural setting of Talaingod. For the thrill seekers, several caves, rock walls and the maze of the Talaingod jungle will definitely satisfy the adventurous spirits in constant search for new discoveries and conquests.

But what has been proven time and again is that the Ata-Manobo people and their tribal culture are Talaingod's most famous attraction. As can be gleaned from feedback of previous activities and outings, the tribal culture scored the highest in terms of positive and long lasting impression than any other aspect of the over all cultural setting in the municipality of Talaingod. The unique tribal culture of the Ata-Manobo creates interest especially among non indigenous people.

Being so, the Municipality of Talaingod is considered as the Lumad Capital of the Davao Region.

Realizing the true tourism value of the locality, being an irreplaceable attraction in the cultural tourism that will directly benefit the economic welfare of the people as well as preserve the culture of the indigenous people of the area, it only makes sense to have the area declared as an eco-cultural tourism zone and thereby establish a cultural heritage village that will serve as the center of the Lumad populace in the Davao region.

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



**ANTHONY G. DEL ROSARIO**

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**AN ACT**  
**DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF TALAINGOD, DAVAO DEL NORTE AS AN ECO-**  
**CULTURAL TOURISM ZONE ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE TALAINGOD**  
**CULTURAL HERITAGE VILLAGE, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND**  
**APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. The Municipality of Talaingod in Davao del Norte is hereby declared as an eco- cultural tourism zone, establishing for the purpose the Talaingod Cultural Heritage Village. As such it shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourist zones.

SEC. 2. The Department of Tourism, in coordination with the local government units concerned, the Representative of the First Congressional District of Davao del Norte and other concerned agencies of the government shall, within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, prepare a development plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure which shall enhance tourism in the area; Provided that the said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the of the natural beauty and indigenous nature of the area. Consideration must also be given to the formulation, development and implementation of programs and strategies that will generate livelihood and employment opportunities for the local inhabitants of the area.

SEC. 3. The Department of Tourism shall take immediate steps in implementing the tourism development plan that will suit the natural characteristics of the area and shall incorporate the same in its overall development plans and programs for national implementation.

SEC. 4. It shall also be the responsibility of the Department of Tourism to promote Talaingod and the cultural heritage village that will be constructed and established as tourism areas in all its national, regional and local promotion programs.

SEC. 5. The Department of Tourism shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. The Department of Tourism shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be charged against the internally generated funds of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and/or the appropriations in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. All laws, rules, regulations, proclamations, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,