

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



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3209**

Introduced by Honorable Reynaldo V. Umali

**AN ACT FORMULATING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR
MINDORO ISLAND, CREATING THE ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY TO ITS
IMPLEMENTATION, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

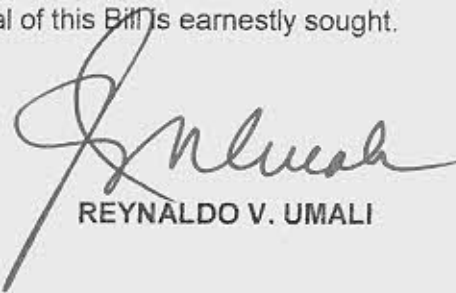
Explanatory Note

Mindoro Island has all the potentials for development and a lot of strengths and assets that can fuel the progress of the country. It is endowed with natural and human resources primarily from the sectors of agriculture and tourism that are waiting to be fully harnessed to their highest potentials. The island, undoubtedly, is the microcosm of the Philippines.

Meanwhile, development initiatives for years have been confined within the respective boundaries of the two provinces composing the Island of Mindoro. Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro seem to be isolated and divided by geography, economic constraints as well as political challenges. Since it is an island and assets and resources are more or less shared by the two provinces, it would be more beneficial if development efforts would be approached and orchestrated at the island-wide level. Thus, the **Mindoro Island Sustainable Development Council (MISDC)** has been conceptualized.

The Mindoro Sustainable Development Councils shall stand as a body that will strategically manage, implement and provide direction to the development goals of the two provinces of Mindoro Island. It shall work to address the socio-economic concerns and the geo-political challenges currently faced by the island. More importantly, the Council shall promote the ideals of people-centric-development, inclusive growth and green development particularly in the crafting the "Mindoro Island Strategic and Integrated Development Plan".

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


REYNALDO V. UMALI

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

Section 1. Title - This Act shall be known as the "Sustainable Development Council for Mindoro Island Act."

Section 2. Declaration of Policy - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life. Similarly, it is the policy of the State to protect, develop and conserve its natural resources.

Section 3. Mindoro Island Sustainable Development Council (MISDC). – The Mindoro Island Sustainable Development Council (MISDC), hereinafter referred to as the Council, shall exercise the function of a governance, implementation and policy direction body. The Council shall be under the Office of the President. It shall be composed of the Governors of Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, Members of the House of the Representatives representing the provinces of Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, the Deputy Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority, the Undersecretary of Environment and Natural Resources, Undersecretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Undersecretary of the Department of Agriculture, Undersecretary of Tourism, the Presidents of the Mayor's League of Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, the Presidents of the Provincial Chapter of the Liga ng mga Barangay, the Executive Director of the Mindoro Council for Sustainable Development Staff, and such other members from the public or private sectors as the majority of the council may deem necessary.

The Council shall elect, from among its members, a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman and members of the Secretariat.

Section 4. Strategic and Integrated Development Plan. - A comprehensive framework for the sustainable development of Mindoro Island shall be formulated by the Council. It shall incorporate the principles of people-centric development, inclusive growth, green development (human development through poverty alleviation, attaining economic development through strengthening the sectors of agriculture, tourism and such other sectors and protecting and enhancing the natural resources and endangered environment of the island) of Mindoro. Such framework shall be known as the Strategic and Integrated Development Plan for Mindoro, hereinafter referred to as SIDP, and shall serve to guide the local government of the two provinces of Mindoro and the national government agencies concerned in the formulation and implementation of plans, programs and projects affecting said provinces. The Strategic and Integrated Development Plan shall be completed within one year upon effectivity of this Act. It shall therefore be incorporated in the Regional Development Plan of Region IV-B as part of said plan.

Section 5. Quorum. - A majority of the members of the Council shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.

Section 6. Compensation. - The members of the council shall be entitled to per diems and allowances in accordance with existing laws in the performance of their duties and in carrying out of the business of the Council. The per diems shall be in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) for every meeting: Provided, that the per diems collected do not exceed the equivalent of per diems for four (4) meetings in a month.

Section 7. Powers and Functions. - In order to successfully implement the provisions of this Act, the Council is hereby vested with the following powers and functions.

- (1) Formulate plans and policies as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.
- (2) Coordinate with the local governments to ensure that the latter's plans, programs and projects are aligned with the plans, programs and policies of the SIDP.
- (3) Call on any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the Government, and on private entities and organizations for cooperation and assistance in the performance of its functions.
- (4) Arrange, negotiate for, accept donations, grants, gifts, loans, and other funding from domestic and foreign sources to carry out the activities and purposes of the SIEP.
- (5) Recommend to the Congress of the Philippines such matters that may require legislation in support of the objectives of the SIEP.
- (6) Delegate any or all of its powers and functions to its support staff, as hereinafter provided, except those which by provisions of law cannot be delegated;
- (7) Establish policies and guidelines for employment on the basis, of merit, technical competence and moral character and prescribe a compensation and staffing pattern;
- (8) Adopt, amend and rescind such rules and regulations and impose penalties therefore for the effective implementation of the SIDP and the other provisions of this Act.

(9) Enforce the provisions of this Act and other existing laws. Rules and regulations similar to or complementary with this Act;

(10) Perform related functions which shall promote human development, attainment of economic growth also the development, conservation, management, protection, and utilization of the natural resources of Mindoro Island; and

(11) Perform such other powers and functions as may be necessary in carrying out its functions, powers, and the provisions of this Act.

Section 8. Mindoro Strategic And Integrated Development Council Support Staff. Within one (1) year, from the effectivity of this Act, the Mindoro Sustainable Development Council shall identify its staff requirements or needs to efficiently carry out the objectives of this Act.

Section 9. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 10. Separability Clause. - If any of the provisions of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional, the other provisions of this Act shall remain valid.

Section 11. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 12. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.