

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **4702**



Introduced by **Rep. EVELIO R. LEONARDIA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Tourism is one of the most important aspects for developing countries. It is a vehicle for poverty reduction, environmental conservation and cultural heritage preservation. It is also an engine for the improvement of quality of life of local communities by creating alternative livelihood and employment.

The whole island of Negros boasts of many tourist spots and destinations, not to mention its many world-famous festivals and celebrations such as the Masskara Festival of Bacolod City, the Buglasan and Sandurot Festivals of Dumaguete, the Sinulog Festival of Kabankalan City, Cadiz City's Dinagsa, La Carlota City's Pasalamat Festival, and many more. The hospitality and warmth of the Negrosanons coupled with the many beautiful tourist attractions offered by the Negros Island are regarded as local treasures vital for the growth and development of tourism and ultimately its economy.

With the current efforts to create a One Negros Island Region gaining ground, the establishment of a Negros Island Tourism Office, which can effectively promote Negros' tourist attractions and develop its tourism programs, is a very important component towards that goal.

And since it is projected that tourism will become the biggest industry in the world, an office that will focus on our anticipation of such an eventuality will put the Island of Negros in a positional advantage well ahead of other destinations in the South East Asia region.

As such, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


Rep. EVELIO R. LEONARDIA
Lone District of Bacolod City

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NEGROS ISLAND TOURISM OFFICE FOR THE
ISLAND OF NEGROS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established a Negros Island Tourism Office which shall cater to the tourism programs and plans of the Island of Negros. The same shall be located in the Lone District of Bacolod City, Province of Negros Occidental unless otherwise provided for by law.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Department of Tourism shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Tourism shall immediately include in the Department's programs the operationalization of the Negros Island Tourism Office, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,