

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

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4526



Introduced by **Representatives Gil P. Acosta, Frederick E. Abueg, Franz Josef George E. Alvarez**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill declares the province of Palawan as the Cruise Ship Capital of the Philippines with the corresponding government support.

Section Two (2) of RA 9593 provides that "The State declares 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."

Palawan is the first destination when it comes to cruise-tourism. The cruise ships coming to the Province of Palawan are top of the line. From January – September 2016, thirteen (13) international cruise ships have visited Palawan.

Palawan is the biggest province in the Philippines and is composed of 1,768 islands and islets. An exotic paradise in South East Asia, Palawan has been voted the world's best island for the second time in a row. Nothing defines

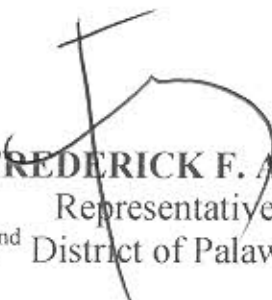
Palawan more than the water around it. The Philippines' most sparsely populated region is also the most enticing. Diving, island-hopping and snorkelling trips in this part of the world manage to captivate both those seeking adventure and those wanting to relax.

The declaration of the Province of Palawan as the Cruise Ship Capital of the Philippines would create a favourable image of the Philippines within the international community, thereby strengthening the country's attraction as a tourism destination and eventually paving the way for other benefits that may result from a positive global view of the country.

Taking into account the points raised, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



GIL P. ACOSTA
Representative
3rd District of Palawan



FREDERICK F. ABUEG
Representative
2nd District of Palawan



FRANZ JOSEF GEORGE E. ALVAREZ
Representative
1st District of Palawan

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HOUSE BILL NO. **4526**

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1 **AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AS THE**
2 **CRUISE SHIP CAPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER**
3 **PURPOSES**

4
5 Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines
6 in Congress assembled:

7
8 **SECTION 1. TITLE.** - This Act shall be known as “**An Act**
9 **Declaring the Province of Palawan as the Cruise Ship Capital of the**
10 **Philippines.**”

11 **SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.** – It is hereby declared
12 the policy of the State to promote sustainable tourism industry throughout the
13 country. Towards this end, the Province of Palawan, being the country’s first
14 destination when it comes to cruise-tourism is hereby declared the Cruise Ship
15 Capital of the Philippines.

16 As such, it shall be accorded priority development by the Department of
17 Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing
18 tourism zones.

19
20 **SECTION 3. CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION, AND**
21 **MAINTENANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURES AND FACILITIES.** – The
22 DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone
23 Authority and other concerned agencies of the government, shall, within one (1)

year from the approval of this Act, cause the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate infrastructures and facilities which shall enhance the cruise- ship industry in the entire Province of Palawan.

SECTION 4. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. –

The DOT shall prepare a master plan and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to be approved by the President of the Philippines.

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION. - The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. - If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional, any other provision not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. REPEALING CLAUSE. - All laws, executive orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVITY. This Act shall take effect after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,