

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

7517
HOUSE BILL No. _____



Introduced by HON. MANUEL F. ZUBIRI

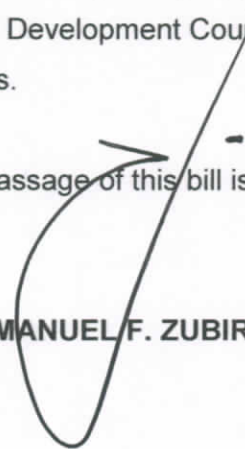
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Bukidnon is known as the "Food Basket of Mindanao". It is also known as the "Highland Paradise in the Heart of Mindanao", and sometimes also the "Rolling Uplands Plateau". Despite these enticing names and titles which describe the province's abundance of natural resources and favorable topography, it has often been overlooked in terms of tourism development. Though it has much to offer, Bukidnon remains one of the poorer provinces in the Philippines.

It is high time the government invests in developing Bukidnon into something more palatable for the tourists. The province is typhoon-free and cold and is home to the Philippine Eagle and the rafflesia. It has an abundance of ecotourism zones waiting to be developed, such as the Pulangi River, Musuan Peak, Maramag Falls, Adtuyan Plateau, the Waig Crystal Spring, Lake Pinamaloy, Sinanguhan and Kahulugan Falls, the Linking Caves and Spring, the Kiokong Tourism Park and much more. The list is not exhaustive and includes just the third district; there is much, much more Bukidnon can offer as a collective.

Tourism is an efficient way of generating revenue for the province as local businesses and craftsmen will flourish while the tourists are given a genuine experience of Bukidnon and all its beauty. It may help solve the problem of poverty by generating jobs and income for the area. Best of all, it will only require a Development Council which will not create extra offices and incur additional expenses.

In lieu of the abovementioned, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


MANUEL F. ZUBIRI

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HOUSE BILL NO. **7517**

Introduced by Representative HON. MANUEL F. ZUBIRI

**AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
AREA (TDA), CREATING THE BUKIDNON PROVINCIAL TOURISM COUNCIL AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title* – This Act shall be known as the “Bukidnon Tourism
2 Development Area (TDA) Act.”
3

4 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy* – It is declared the policy of the State to promote
5 a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally
6 sensitive, economically viable and equitably beneficial to local communities.
7

8 SECTION 3. *Scope and Coverage*. – The Bukidnon TDA shall cover all its
9 municipalities, but shall ask for the consent of the indigenous peoples if development shall
10 be undertaken in ancestral domains and ancestral lands.
11

12 As such, the development of Bukidnon shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism
13 (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of
14 tourism development areas.
15

16 SECTION 4. *Tourism Development Plan*. – The Tourism Development Plan for the
17 Province of Bukidnon shall be incorporated in the DOT's overall National tourism
18 Development Plan (NTDP) pursuant to Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as “The
19 Tourism Act of 2009”, and shall be jointly implemented with the local government units
20 concerned and the Provincial Tourism Council of Bukidnon, taking into consideration
21 Republic Act No. 7586, otherwise known as the “National Integrated Protected Areas
22 System Act of 1992”, and its implementing rules and regulations.
23

24 The DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone
25 Authority (TIEZA), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and
26 other concerned agencies of government, shall delineate well-defined geographical areas
27 within the Bukidnon TDA and coordinate the integrated development of these areas for the
28 optimum use of natural assets and attractions, as well as existing facilities.
29

30 The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), in coordination with the
31 DOT and the Bukidnon Provincial Tourism Council, shall set in place the necessary
32 construction and improvement of roads and other infrastructure upon the promulgation of
33 this Act and incorporate the same in its infrastructure program.
34

35 SECTION 5. *Bukidnon Tourism Council*. – The Provincial Governor of Bukidnon
36 shall create a Provincial Tourism Council, hereinafter referred to as the “Council”, which
37 shall be composed of government and private sector representatives.
38

39 The Council shall have the following:
40

- 41 (a) Formulate programs and recommendations to develop local tourism facilities and
42 attractions tapping local resources and funds;
43 (b) Assist in the regulation and supervision of tourism-oriented establishments thereby
44 ensuring wholesome and clean tourism activities;

- 1 (c) Assist in monitoring the implementation of the Local Government Code on the
2 matter of licensing of tourism establishments in the locality to ascertain safe and
3 enjoyable stay of travelers;
4 (d) Strictly enforce sanitary standard in public restrooms frequented by constituents and
5 tourists and those frequented by public utility vehicles and tourist transport services,
6 i.e. gasoline stations, restaurants along main highways, and bus stops; and
7 (e) Perform other duties in accordance with the Department of the Interior and Local
8 Government's (DILG) Guidelines.
9

10 The Provincial Government of Bukidnon shall provide a Secretariat for the Council,
11 including the necessary expenses for the performance of its official functions and
12 activities.
13

14 SECTION 6. *Bukidnon Tourism Development Trust Fund.* – There is hereby
15 established a trust fund under this Act to be known as the Bukidnon Tourism Development
16 Trust Fund, for the purpose of financing projects which shall enhance tourism in the
17 province. The Trust Fund shall be administered by a Trust Fund Administrator under the
18 Provincial Tourism Office of Bukidnon. Funds shall be derived from fees collected from
19 visitors/tourists, other resources from the province, proceeds from registration and lease of
20 multiple-use areas, including tourism concessions, fees, proceeds and contributions from
21 industries and facilities directly benefitting the province.
22

23 The Trust Fund may be augmented by grants and donations, endowments from
24 various sources, domestic or foreign entities and individuals, for purposes related to their
25 functions: *Provided*, That disbursements therefrom shall be in accordance with existing
26 accounting and auditing rules and regulations: *Provided, further*, That the Trust Fund shall
27 not be used to cover personnel services expenditures.
28

29 SECTION 7. *Appropriations.* – The Secretaries of the DOT, DENR, and DPWH shall
30 include in their respective Department's programs the implementation of the Bukidnon
31 Tourism Development Plan, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
32 Appropriations Act and from internally generated funds of the DOT.
33

34 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, parts of laws, decrees, presidential
35 issuances, proclamations, orders, ordinances, and administrative regulations in conflict with
36 the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified or repealed accordingly.
37

38 SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this law or the application
39 thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this law, or the
40 application of such provision or part to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected
41 thereby.
42

43 SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
44 its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
45
46

47 *Approved,*
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