



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7715**



INTRODUCED BY REP. LUISA LLOREN CUARESMA
Lone District of Nueva Vizcaya

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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3 One of the developmental challenges identified during the workshop of the
4 economic sector was the problem on the farmers' low income brought about by high cost of
5 production. To address this issue, the sub-sector on agriculture identified the establishment
6 of an agri-tourism farm as one of the possible solutions to the said problem.
7

8 In view of the vast agricultural lands of Solano lies the challenges faced by the
9 farmers. The tourism industry of Solano on the other hand has the potential to augment the
10 promotion of the agricultural sector through integrating activities that will help in sustaining
11 these two competitive sectors.
12

13 Although there are about forty-one (41) accredited agri-tourism sites located in the
14 Philippines, the concept of integrating agriculture and tourism activities is relatively new in
15 the province. The introduction of this project is therefore viewed as an attractive venture to
16 the public.
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18 The Solano Integrated Agri-Tourism Center or SIATC is a five-hectare agri-tourism
19 site located at the rural barangay of Uddiawan, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya. Its components
20 include among others the rice production area, vegetable production area, orchard
21 production area, and greenhouse, fishpond, training center, guest house, and office and
22 processing area.
23

24 It is the project's main objective to provide economic benefits through increased job
25 opportunities for farmers. Aside from the economic benefits that can be derived by the

26 farmers and the local government from this project, social and environmental benefits of
27 long-term and immediate effects are most likely to be generated.

28

29 Upon its operation, it is expected to benefit 6,590 workers from the agricultural
30 sector and the 38 tourism-related establishments within the municipality. The National
31 Government Agencies (NGAs) such as the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of
32 Tourism (DOT), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Department of
33 Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and Philippine
34 Statistics Authority (PSA) are the LGU's partners in its implementation. Private sectors and
35 LRIs are likewise included.

36

37 The project, when developed and managed appropriately could significantly offset
38 the socioeconomic fallout resulting from declined incomes in farming areas. The increased
39 tourist arrivals, expansion of business, and increased job opportunities will contribute to the
40 income improvement of family, community and government.

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

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LUISA LLOREN CUARESMA

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Lone District of Nueva Vizcaya

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AGRI-TOURISM IN BARANGAY UDDIAWAN,
MUNICIPALITY OF SOLANO IN THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title – This Act shall be known as the “Solano
Integrated Agri-Tourism Center Act”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy – It is a clear mandate of our
fundamental law to protect and conserve our environment not only for our benefit but most
importantly, for the generations to come.

Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that, “The State shall
protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord
with the rhythm and harmony of nature.”

Further, Section 22, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that, “The
State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the
framework of national unity and development.”

74 Towards this end, it is hereby declared as the policy of the State to promote a
75 tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally
76 sensitive, economically viable and equitable for communities.

77
78 **SECTION 3. Objectives** – the project seeks to provide numerous economic
79 benefits to the farmers as well as to the surrounding community members. Its operation aims
80 to increase income opportunities throughout the year thereby increasing the family income.

81
82 The project is likewise viewed to be a means to encourage more tourists to
83 experience actual farm activities while appreciating the value of farmers' produce.

84
85 On the part of the municipality, the project intends support local economy through
86 various goods and services available to the tourists and by increasing its local tax bases
87 through utilization of the locally available fresh produce.

88
89 The project aims to provide not only economic benefits but also social and
90 environmental benefits including its resultant long-term and short-term effects, some of
91 which are enumerated below:

- 92 1. Bring different people together providing therefore opportunities for cultural
93 exchange;
- 94 2. Support local crafts produced by women, out-of-school youth, persons with
95 disabilities, drug surrenders and others;
- 96 3. Create a vehicle for educational research and studies; and,
- 97 4. Help reduce public health risk against non-organic agricultural products.

98 **SECTION 5. Solano Integrated Agri-Tourism Center** – This Act hereby
99 declares Solano Integrated Agri-Tourism Center in Barangay Uddiawan, municipality of
100 Solano, province of Nueva Vizcaya as an Agri-Tourism Site.

101 **SECTION 6. Agri-Tourism Master Plan** - The Municipal Government of
102 Solano, Nueva Vizcaya, the Department of Environment and National Resources (DENR)
103 and the Department of Tourism (DOT) shall jointly prepare an Ecotourism Master Plan for
104 Solano Integrated Agri-Tourism Center and to promulgate necessary rules and regulations to
105 be implemented by the local government in coordination with concerned government
106 agencies.

107 **SECTION 7. Agri-Tourism Council** – There is hereby created an eco-
108 tourism council, to be known as "Solano Integrated Agri-Tourism Council", hereinafter
109 referred to as the Council to be composed of one representative each from accredited non-
110 government organizations and people's organizations engaged in eco-tourism, one
111 recognized indigenous people's federation, reputable travel organizations, the academe and
112 the local chief executive of the Municipality of Solano, Province of Nueva Vizcaya who
113 shall sit as the chairman of the Council.

114 Solano's local legislative body shall appoint the members of the Council for a
115 term of five (5) years, renewable for one term.

116 The Department of Tourism (DOT) and Department of Environment and
117 Natural Resources (DENR) and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) shall
118 assist the Council in its task of pursuing the objectives of this Act.

119 **SECTION 8. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary to carry out the
120 provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of concerned government agencies in
121 the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

122 **SECTION 9. Implementation** - Within sixty (60) days after the
123 implementation of this Act, the DENR in coordination with DOT and NCIP shall
124 promulgate the necessary rules and regulation to govern the effective implementation of this
125 Act.

126 **SECTION 10. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders,
127 administrative orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
128 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

129 **SECTION 11. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is held
130 invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full
131 force and effect.

132 **SECTION 12. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
133 days following its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2)
134 newspaper of general circulation.

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137 *Approved,*