

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Seventeenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7765



Introduced by Honorable Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano

EXPLANATORY NOTE

For inclusive growth to be achieved, opportunities for economic participation must be enabled to people with the least access to these opportunities. This means putting in place the mechanisms and the necessary support infrastructures so people will be encouraged to actively do their part in pursuing growth and development.

The inclusion of the City of Vigan in the UNESCO World Heritage List was a tremendous boost to the tourism sector in the Province of Ilocos Sur particularly for the residents of the First District. The UNESCO distinction created multiple opportunities for people to maximize the economic gains presented by the honor and prestige of a heritage destination. Trickle-down economics characterized the growth of micro, small, and medium enterprises that capitalized on the popularity created by the inclusion of the City of Vigan in the UNESCO List.

But apart from City of Vigan, adjacent municipalities of Sto. Domingo, Sta. Catalina, Bantay, San Ildefonso, San Vicente, Sinait, Cabugao, San Juan, Magsingal and Caoayan have potentials of replicating the tourism attractiveness of the City of Vigan. Historical landmarks such as old churches, buildings, and houses are scattered in these municipalities that a timely and a comprehensive cultural mapping can help transform into another heritage/pilgrimage and religious tourism destination zone. Given also the current interest focused on farm and eco-tourism as well as wellness and adventure sports tourism, these cited municipalities can offer local and international tourists a menu of activities and destinations to choose from.

Proactively declaring these areas then as tourism destination and providing the necessary funds for its development can hasten the creation of jobs and other economic opportunities.

This bill then seeks to declare the areas of Sto. Domingo, Sta. Catalina, Bantay, San Ildefonso, San Vicente, Sinait, Cabugao, San Juan, Magsingal and Caoayan as tourist destination zones, providing for its development and appropriate funds therefor in view of the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable and ethically and socially equitable for local communities as declared in R.A. 9593, otherwise known as the "Tourism Act of 2009".

In view of the foregoing, the passage of house bill _____ is earnestly sought.

Hon. Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano
Representative, 1st District, Ilocos Sur

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AN ACT

DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITIES OF STO. DOMINGO, STA. CATALINA, BANTAY, SAN ILDEFONSO, SAN VICENTE, SINAIT, CABUGAO, SAN JUAN, MAGSINGAL AND CAOAYAN AS TOURIST DESTINATIONS PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The municipalities of Sto. Domingo, Sta. Catalina, Bantay, San Ildefonso, San Vicente, Sinait, Cabugao, San Juan, Magsingal and Caoayan are hereby declared as tourist destinations. As such, these shall be accord with priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to rules and regulations governing the development of tourism destination.

SECTION 2. The Department of Tourism in coordination with the local government units and other concerned agencies of the government, shall, within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, prepare a development plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructures as that shall enhance tourism in the areas. Provided, that said development plan shall ensure the preservation and coordination of the natural resources of the areas.

SECTION 3. The Department of Tourism shall take immediate step in implementing the tourism development plan that will suit the natural characteristics of the municipalities and shall incorporate the same in its overall development plans and programs for national implementation.

SECTION 4. It shall also be the responsibility of the DOT to promote the six (6) municipalities as tourism areas in all its national, regional and local promotion programs.

SECTION 5. The Secretary of Tourism shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

SECTION 6. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SECTION 7. All laws, rules, regulations, proclamations, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. If any section or part of this Act is held unconstitutional, no other section or provision shall be affected.

SECTION 19. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,