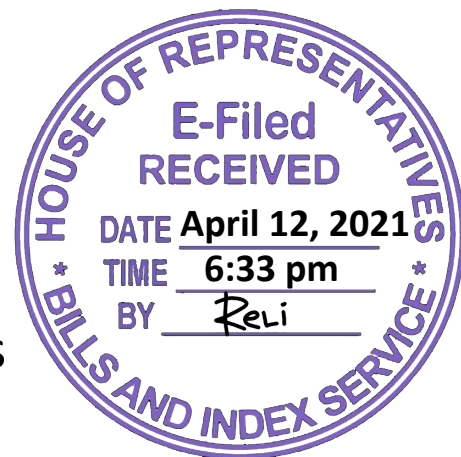




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9195

Introduced by Representative Hector S. Sanchez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create the Catanduanes Urban Development Authority.

The Province of Catanduanes is an island province in the Bicol region and lies to the east of Camarines Sur. It is the twelfth largest island in the country. It boasts of many nicknames like “*The Happy Island*,” “*Land of the Howling Winds*,” “*Isle of the Eastern Seas*,” but it is best known as the “*Abaca Capital of the Philippines*,” being the number one exporter of high-grade abaca product in the world. It comprises eleven (11) municipalities, namely, Bagamanoc, Baras, Bato, Caramoran, Gigmoto, Pandan, Panganiban, San Andres, San Miguel, Viga, and its capital, Virac.

The Province of Catanduanes, though within the typhoon belt, is blessed with significant land forms and rich forests. The forest areas which have been declared as the Catanduanes Watershed Forest Reserve cover the municipalities of Baras, Bato, Caramoran, Gigmoto, San Miguel, San Andres, Virac, and Viga. The forest reserve, along with tourism development and infrastructure preservation, has opened the gate of opportunities to accelerate the economic growth of the province.

The creation of an urban development authority will coordinate, plan, manage, and implement development programs and resource utilizations in the Province of Catanduanes. An urban development plan will also be established

to promote the socio-economic development of the province. A development framework will be formulated and implemented to enhance the capabilities of the people and they will be given equitable access to local resources, basic social services, and economic opportunities, while ensuring the protection and preservation of the province.

This proposed measure guarantees the economic progress of the province, reduces government expenditures and ensures asset preservation. Further, it will keep the people from migrating to urban areas and help the Province of Catanduanes reach its ultimate goal for a safe, progressive, prosperous, and sustainable province.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Sanchez', written over a faint rectangular box.

HECTOR S. SANCHEZ



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

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HOUSE BILL NO. 9195

Introduced by Representative Hector S. Sanchez

1 **AN ACT**
2 **CREATING THE CATANDUANES URBAN DEVELOPMENT**
3 **AUTHORITY, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND**
4 **APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

5
6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
7 *Congress assembled:*
8

9 SECTION. 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the
10 “*Catanduanes Urban Development Authority Act.*”

11 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to protect
12 and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in
13 accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Towards this end, the State
14 shall formulate and implement a framework to enhance the capabilities of the
15 people where they are given equitable access to local resources, basic social
16 services and economic opportunities while ensuring the protection and
17 preservation of the Province of Catanduanes. The State shall likewise establish a

1 comprehensive urban and master development plan to promote the socio-
2 economic development of the province.

3 SEC. 3. ***Catanduanes Urban Development Authority.*** – There shall be
4 created under the Office of the President, an independent regulatory body to be
5 known as the Catanduanes Urban Development Authority, hereinafter referred
6 to as the Authority. The Authority shall be organized within one hundred twenty
7 (120) days after the approval of this Act. It shall be the primary government
8 agency that shall coordinate, plan, manage and implement the development
9 programs and resource utilization in the Province of Catanduanes. It shall be
10 responsible in close cooperation with the local government units (LGUs) and
11 line agencies for the overall policy direction and coordination of the efforts of
12 the authority, execute the powers and functions vested and conferred by this
13 Act. It shall have its principal office in the Municipality of Virac, Catanduanes
14 and, if necessary, may establish area management offices (AMOs) to achieve
15 the objectives of this Act.

16 SEC. 4. ***Coverage.*** – The Authority covers all the municipalities in the
17 Province of Catanduanes, namely: Bagamanoc, Baras, Bato, Caramoran,
18 Gigmoto, Pandan, Panganiban, San Andres, San Miguel, Viga, and Virac.

19 SEC. 5. ***General Policies.*** – In the exercise of its powers and duties, the
20 Authority is guided by the following policies:

- 1 a) Sustainable development and preservation of the Province of
2 Catanduanes is given due importance to protect and develop the
3 ecological balance within the area;
- 4 b) Preparation, development and implementation of the Catanduanes
5 Comprehensive Urban and Master Development Plan based on the
6 framework of sustainable management of watersheds, protected
7 areas, fish sanctuaries and rainforest shall be prioritized in
8 consultation and coordination with the LGUs, Department of
9 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of the
10 Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Public Works
11 and Highways (DPWH), National Economic Development Authority
12 (NEDA) and other appropriate government agencies and
13 stakeholders;
- 14 c) Implementation of short and medium-term programs, activities and
15 projects consistent with the Catanduanes Comprehensive Urban and
16 Master Development Plan to attain the objectives of this Act;
- 17 d) Implementation of environmental laws and regulations, including
18 Republic Act (RA) No. 11038, otherwise known as the “*Expanded*
19 *National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018*” and RA
20 8435, otherwise known as the “*Agriculture and Fisheries*
21 *Modernization Act of 1997*,” to regulate commercial, industrial and
22 similar activities within the Province of Catanduanes;

- 1 e) Active participation of the LGUs, specifically the barangays is
2 encouraged in the implementation and enforcement of existing
3 environmental laws;
- 4 f) Participation of the private sector and civil society organizations to
5 transform the Province of Catanduanes into a conducive environment
6 for recreation, business and other productive uses through private
7 sector-driven and cleaner technology-based investments in ecosystem
8 development;
- 9 g) Planning, programming, social preparation and adjustment, relocation
10 or resettlement of the population within the protected areas of the
11 Province of Catanduanes in coordination with appropriate
12 government agencies and LGUs to ensure that relocation and
13 resettlement areas have permanent access to adequate basic social
14 services and livelihood opportunities;
- 15 h) Management and implementation of information and education
16 campaign to amplify stakeholder awareness and voluntary
17 participation on the importance of protection and conservation of the
18 Province of Catanduanes in close coordination with LGUs and other
19 government agencies; and
- 20 i) Formulation and implementation of programs, policies and
21 procedures to achieve public safety, especially preparedness for
22 preventive or rescue operations during times of calamities and

1 disasters such as earthquakes, floods and mudslides, as well as
2 coordination and mobilization of resources and the implementation of
3 contingency plans for the rehabilitation and relief operations in
4 coordination with the appropriate national agencies.

5 SEC. 6. ***Powers and Functions.*** – The Authority shall exercise the
6 following powers and functions:

- 7 a) Formulate and implement the Catanduanes Comprehensive Urban and
8 Master Development Plan with the help of the NEDA and other
9 agencies or entities;
- 10 b) Review all plans, projects and programs in the Province of
11 Catanduanes and the expansions thereto including those submitted by
12 LGUs, public corporations, public utility franchisees, concessionaires,
13 private persons or corporations that relate to the development of the
14 Province of Catanduanes to ensure that they conform to environmental
15 standards prescribed by the Authority and other environmental laws;
- 16 c) Through coordination with the DPWH and other appropriate
17 government agencies, implement infrastructure projects for water
18 supply, among others, post-harvest irrigation, food processing, flood
19 control, solid waste management, wastewater and sewerage works,
20 water supply facilities, access roads;
- 21 d) Access ports, housing, leisure parks and related works within the
22 context of its master plan including the readjustment, relocation or

1 resettlement of population within the Province of Catanduanes that
2 may be deemed necessary and beneficial in pursuit of its mandate. In
3 case any of these projects is financed wholly or in part by the
4 Authority, it shall collect fees and tolls from users or beneficiaries to
5 recover costs of construction and maintenance of the projects;

6 e) Periodically conduct comprehensive scientific surveys, studies, field
7 sampling and laboratory testing, and Geographic Information System
8 (GIS)- mapping of the Province of Catanduanes, in coordination with
9 the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), DENR-
10 Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), and National Mapping
11 and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) to monitor, evaluate,
12 update and analyze among others, the physical, biological, chemical,
13 geological characteristics including the socio-economic profile of
14 stakeholders, trade, industrial and commercial profile of business
15 entities, status of the national government agency and LGU programs
16 and projects, biometric tagging and identification of settlers, parcellary
17 land use and zoning aspects, mapping of critical effluent discharge
18 areas, transportation and navigation attributes, and historical and
19 tourism elements;

20 f) Engage the services of the private sector through the Public-Private
21 Partnership (PPP) process or through the build operate and transfer
22 (BOT) scheme under RA 6957, entitled “*An Act Authorizing the*

1 *Financing, Construction, Operation and Maintenance of*
2 *Infrastructure Project by the Private Sector, and For Other*
3 *Purposes,”* as amended, or other acceptable forms of partnership and
4 agreements in establishing an environmental, biological or
5 microbiological laboratory, GIS-mapping system, surveillance,
6 monitoring and enforcement system through high-definition closed
7 circuit televisions or other surveillance and monitoring technologies
8 and new technologies on highly-specialized fields;

9 g) Engage in land swapping in securing relocation and resettlement areas,
10 whether by itself or in cooperation with private persons or entities,
11 enter into other acceptable exchange agreements related to social and
12 ecological development projects;

13 h) Identify, secure and possess near-site or on-site development areas for
14 low-cost and socialized mass housing of qualified informal settler
15 families;

16 i) Engage in experimental community-based integrated waste
17 management technologies and strategies including the collection and
18 disposal system, sewage and septage treatment, collection and disposal
19 of floating garbage, solid waste, wastewater by-products, sludge or
20 contaminated sediments;

21 j) Clear and dismantle all illegal structures, in coordination with the
22 local government units, DILG and Philippine National Police (PNP),

1 and ensure that the easements provided for in this Act and other
2 related laws are enforced;

3 k) Conduct, in close coordination with the DENR, DOST, the academe
4 and other private and public research institutions, continuing research
5 and development programs on environmental management
6 technologies, integrated agricultural management models and
7 techniques, and appropriate aquaculture technologies, with the end
8 view of promoting sustainable development;

9 l) Without prejudice to existing environmental laws, establish and
10 enforce anti-pollution standards on domestic, municipal, commercial
11 and industrial waste being discharged into the Province of
12 Catanduanes watershed and river system;

13 m) Require all projects or activities affecting the Province of Catanduanes
14 to secure environmental compliance certificates (ECCs) required
15 under Presidential Decree (PD) No. 1586, entitled “*Establishing An*
16 *Environmental Impact Statement System, Including Other*
17 *Environmental Management Related Measures and for Other*
18 *Purposes,*” and grant clearances and permits for projects and activities
19 within or affecting the province including industrial and commercial
20 activities, recreation and tourism, navigation, housing and other forms
21 of land developments, construction and operation and impose

1 necessary safeguards, management and control of waste and collect
2 necessary fees for such activities and projects;

3 n) Issue, renew or cancel permits, subject to reasonable guidelines, for
4 the discharge of sewage, septage, industrial waste and installation or
5 operation of sewerage works and industrial disposal systems or parts
6 thereof, for the prevention and abatement of pollution;

7 o) Issue, after due notice and hearing, orders or decisions to compel
8 compliance with the provisions of this Act and its implementing rules
9 and regulations;

10 p) Issue, alter or modify, after due notice and hearing, orders or decisions
11 requiring the discontinuance of pollution specifying the conditions and
12 the time within which such discontinuance must be accomplished;

13 q) Revoke, suspend or modify, after due notice and hearing, any
14 clearance or instrumentalities for the purpose of enforcing the
15 provisions of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations;

16 r) Deputize or request the assistance of appropriate government agencies
17 or instrumentalities for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this
18 Act and its implementing rules and regulations and the orders and
19 decisions of the Authority;

20 s) Enter, inspect or investigate at all reasonable times any public and
21 private property devoted to commercial and industrial use within the

Province of Catanduanes, on any matter relating to pollution and existing or imminent environmental hazard and danger;

t) Fix, impose, collect, periodically review and adjust reasonable fees and other related charges for services rendered in the performance of its mandate; and

u) Exercise powers and perform other functions as may be necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities under this Act.

SEC. 7. **Corporate Powers.** – The Authority shall exercise the following corporate powers:

a) Succeed in its corporate name;

b) Sue and be sued in its corporate name;

c) Adopt, alter and use a corporate seal;

d) Adopt, amend or repeal its bylaws;

e) Enter into, make, perform and carry out contracts of any class, kind and description with any person, firm or corporation, private or public and with foreign government entities which are necessary or incidental to the realization of its purpose;

f) Receive and utilize donations, grants, bequeaths and assistance of all kinds from local and foreign governments and private sectors;

g) Exercise the right of eminent domain whenever the Authority deems it necessary to carry out the objectives under this Act;

- 1 h) Borrow funds from any local or foreign sources independent of the
2 bonds it may issue to carry out the purposes of this Act;
- 3 i) Purchase, hold, alienate, mortgage, pledge or otherwise dispose of the
4 shares of the capital stock or any bond, securities or other evidence of
5 indebtedness created by any other corporation, co-partnership or
6 government agencies or instrumentalities. The Authority shall not
7 invest its funds in any high-risk instruments or in any highly
8 speculative stocks issued without recourse to commercial banks or
9 investment houses;
- 10 j) Provide incentives to encourage the private sector to fully subscribe to
11 its shares of stock;
- 12 k) Perform any acts which a corporation or a juridical person is
13 authorized to perform under the existing laws; and
- 14 l) Issue such other rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary to
15 carry out the purposes of this Act.

16 SEC. 8. **Board of Directors.** – The corporate powers of the Authority
17 shall be vested in and exercised by a Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to
18 as the Board, which is composed of the following:

- 19 a) General manager of the Authority, as chairperson;
- 20 b) Secretary of the DENR, as *ex-officio* vice-chairperson;
- 21 c) Secretary of the DPWH, as *ex-officio* member;
- 22 d) Secretary of the DILG, as *ex-officio* member;

1 e) A representative from the Office of the Governor of the Province of
2 Catanduanes; and

3 f) Two (2) representatives from the private sector who are shareholders
4 or stakeholders in the Province of Catanduanes, as members.

5 The *ex-officio* members of the Board may designate the officer next in
6 rank as a permanent alternate representative to the Board.

7 The appointment and qualification of the members of the Board shall be
8 in accordance with the provisions of RA 10149, otherwise known as the
9 “*GOCC Governance Act of 2011*.” The Governance Commission for GOCCs
10 shall give utmost consideration to the nominees recommended by the general
11 manager. The general manager shall recommend at least three (3) names for
12 every vacant position.

13 SEC. 9. ***Powers and Functions.*** – The Board shall exercise the following
14 powers and functions:

15 a) Provide a comprehensive policy guidance for the sustainable
16 development and preservation of the Province of Catanduanes;

17 b) Prescribe and promulgate policies, rules and regulations to govern the
18 conduct of business of the Authority and ensure that the Authority
19 performs its functions in a proper, efficient and effective manner;

20 c) Decide the objectives, strategies and policies of the Authority in
21 accordance with the provisions of this Act;

22 d) Exercise appellate powers on the decision of the general manager;

- 1 e) Issue subpoena *ad testificandum* or subpoena *duces tecum* requiring
2 the attendance and testimony of witnesses in any matter or inquiry
3 pending before the Board and requiring the production of books,
4 papers, contracts, agreements and all other documents;
- 5 f) Exercise appellate powers to order the taking of depositions at any
6 stage of any proceeding or investigation pending before the Board;
- 7 g) Approve the organizational and administrative structures and the
8 corresponding staffing pattern of the Authority; fix their reasonable
9 compensation, allowances and other benefits in accordance with the
10 Salary Standardization Law; prescribe their duties and establish such
11 methods and procedures as may be necessary to ensure the efficient,
12 honest and economical administration of the provisions and purposes
13 of this Act. All personnel of the Authority shall be appointed by the
14 general manager. Those personnel with the rank of assistant manager
15 down to department heads, and others of comparable rank, shall be
16 subject to the confirmation of the Board: *Provided*, That the personnel
17 of the Authority shall be selected only from those with civil service
18 eligibility and shall be subject to civil service laws, rules and
19 regulations;
- 20 h) Approve the annual and supplemental budgets of the Authority and
21 authorize each operating and capital expenditure and disbursement as

1 may be necessary for the effective management, operation and
2 administration of the Authority;

3 i) Create and organize *ad-hoc* technical working groups composed of
4 representatives from the government and other stakeholders to assist
5 the Board; and

6 j) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the
7 provisions of this Act.

8 SEC. 10. **Quorum.** – The presence of at least five (5) members of the
9 Board shall constitute a quorum and the majority vote of at least four (4)
10 members in a meeting where a quorum is present shall be necessary for the
11 adoption of any ruling, order, resolution, decision or act of the Board in the
12 exercise of its functions.

13 SEC. 11. **Board Meetings.** – The Board shall meet regularly once a
14 month and may hold special meetings to consider urgent matters upon the call
15 of the chairperson or upon the initiative of five (5) members. The rules and
16 procedures in the conduct of Board meetings shall be prescribed by the Board.

17 SEC. 12. **Per Diems.** – The members of the Board shall receive a *per*
18 *diem* for each meeting actually attended. The *per diems* of the members of the
19 Board shall be determined by the Board in accordance with the existing rules
20 and regulations.

1 SEC. 13. **General Manager.** – A general manager who is the chief
2 executive officer of the Authority shall exercise the following powers and
3 functions:

- 4 a) Submit for consideration of the Board, the policies and measures that
5 are necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of this Act;
- 6 b) Head and administer the Province of Catanduanes Adjudication Panel
7 as the implementing arm for the quasi-judicial powers of the
8 Authority;
- 9 c) Execute, administer and implement the policies, plans, programs and
10 projects approved by the Board;
- 11 d) Manage and supervise the operation and administration of the
12 Authority;
- 13 e) Appoint all officials and employees of the Authority and remove,
14 suspend or otherwise discipline the same for cause, in accordance with
15 existing civil service laws, rules and regulations;
- 16 f) Submit quarterly reports to the Board on personnel selection,
17 placement and training;
- 18 g) Render an annual report to the Board and various stakeholders
19 regarding the operation of the Authority including its latest financial
20 statements;

1 h) Represent the Authority in all its dealings with offices, agencies, and
2 instrumentalities of the government and with all persons and other
3 entities, public or private, domestic and foreign; and

4 i) Perform such other functions as may be provided in the bylaws and as
5 may be vested by the Board.

6 The general manager shall be vested with the rights, privileges,
7 disqualifications and prohibitions of a general manager as prescribed by existing
8 Position Classification and Compensation Scheme, laws, issuances and
9 pertinent civil service rules and regulations.

10 SEC. 14. **Qualifications.** – The general manager must be:

11 a) A citizen and resident of the Philippines;

12 b) At least thirty-five (35) years of age;

13 c) With good moral character, unquestionable integrity and recognized
14 competence; and

15 d) A degree holder with at least five (5) years supervisory or
16 management experience in the field of public administration,
17 economic planning, environmental planning and natural resource
18 management, or in the establishment and management of large
19 agricultural, commercial or industrial enterprises or other related
20 fields.

21 SEC. 15. **Term of Office.** – The general manager shall be appointed by
22 the President of the Philippines and shall have a term of six (6) years which may

1 be extended for another non-extendible term of two (2) years. The general
2 manager may only be removed for cause in accordance with the rules and
3 regulations prescribed by the Civil Service Commission.

4 SEC. 16. **Management Structure.** – In carrying out the activities of the
5 Authority, the general manager shall be assisted by an assistant general manager
6 and four (4) department heads: one (1) for legal services, one (1) for
7 administration and finance services, one (1) for technical services, and one (1)
8 for agricultural development, who shall have such powers, duties and functions
9 as the general manager may prescribe or delegate. The assistant general
10 manager shall act as the general manager in the absence or during the temporary
11 incapacity of the general manager or until such time that a new general manager
12 has been duly appointed.

13 The Authority shall have the following departments under the direct
14 supervision and control of the general manager:

- 15 a) *Enforcement and Legal Service Department* which shall provide legal
16 advice and support to all the corporate units on legal implications of
17 the various undertakings of the Authority. It shall also provide
18 professional assistance in the implementation of the quasi-judicial and
19 regulatory functions of the Authority, which includes enforcement of
20 environmental protection, proper procedures on investigation,
21 litigation, adjudication and voluntary arbitration. It shall oversee and
22 manage the operations of the watershed, forestry zones, rainforest and

1 fish sanctuary surveillance, monitoring and enforcement units within
2 the Province of Catanduanes;

3 b) *Administrative and Finance Department* which shall be responsible
4 for providing services related to administrative support services such
5 as consolidation of major financial output, preparation of personnel
6 evaluation system, human resource management, revenue planning,
7 generation and enhancement, budget and financial matters, records
8 management, safekeeping of financial assets, and general services;

9 c) *Technical and Environmental Management Services Department*
10 which shall serve as the main regulatory and technical arm of the
11 authority and shall oversee the integration of the functions on
12 environmental management and development, including the
13 management and operations of the GIS-mapping unit and laboratories.
14 It shall also be responsible for providing scientific studies, technical
15 policy planning, research and development, and technology
16 management services; and

17 d) *Agricultural Development Department* which shall be responsible for
18 the promotion and management of agricultural activities in the area,
19 including dissemination of information and educational campaign to
20 residents, particularly the farmers, to help them maximize their
21 earning potential while maintaining ecological balance.

1 SEC. 17. ***Power to Administer Oaths.*** – The members of the Board, the
2 general manager and other duly designated officers of the Authority, shall have
3 the authority to administer oaths in the transaction and performance of their
4 official duties.

5 SEC. 18. ***Consultative Assembly.*** – There shall be established a
6 consultative assembly which shall serve as venue for public consultations and
7 participation by stakeholders and presentation of the Authority’s plans and
8 programs or modification, amendment or revision of rules and regulations prior
9 to its adoption or implementation within its jurisdiction. The consultative
10 assembly is composed of the following:

- 11 a) Mayors of the municipalities comprising the Province of Catanduanes;
- 12 b) The president of the association of barangay captains in municipalities
13 comprising the Province of Catanduanes;
- 14 c) A representative of owners, proprietors and authorized operators of all
15 major private, commercial or industrial business establishments
16 located in all barangays comprising the Province of Catanduanes; and
- 17 d) One (1) representative each for the homeowners associations, civil
18 society organizations and peoples’ organizations in the Province of
19 Catanduanes.

20 The Authority shall convene an annual year-end general assembly to
21 report and present its financial and fiscal status and updates on its plans,
22 programs and projects to its stakeholders and to the public. The required

1 logistical support, such as food and transportation allowances shall be provided
2 to the members of the Board and the consultative assembly during the meeting
3 at the expense of the Authority subject to government accounting and auditing
4 procedures.

5 SEC. 19. ***Organizational Structure.*** – The Chairperson shall determine
6 the organizational structure, staffing pattern and pay scales of the Authority
7 personnel subject to existing civil service and compensation laws. The
8 Chairperson may reorganize the Authority and may create or abolish divisions,
9 units or branches therein as the exigencies of the affairs of the Authority may
10 require.

11 SEC. 20. ***Merit System.*** – All officials and employees of the Authority
12 shall be selected and appointed on the basis of merit and fitness in accordance
13 with civil service law, rules and regulations. The recruitment, transfer,
14 promotion, and dismissal of all its personnel including temporary workers shall
15 be governed by a merit system that is established by the Authority in
16 compliance with existing laws, rules and regulations.

17 SEC. 21. ***Catanduanes Comprehensive Urban and Master Development***
18 ***Plan.*** – Upon its organization, the Authority shall formulate the Catanduanes
19 Comprehensive Urban and Master Development Plan which shall serve as the
20 basis for the identification, formulation and development of programs, projects
21 and activities of the province. The plan shall include social services;
22 infrastructure, transport and utilities; environment; tourism; and land use, to

1 support the long-term framework for planning, development and asset
2 preservation of the Province of Catanduanes.

3 SEC. 22. **Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial
4 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's
5 appropriations of the Province of Catanduanes. Thereafter, the amount
6 necessary for its continued operation shall be included in the annual General
7 Appropriations Act.

8 SEC. 23. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90)
9 days from the approval of this Act, the Board shall issue the necessary rules and
10 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act. The implementing rules
11 and regulations shall be published in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of
12 general circulation.

13 SEC. 24. **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules
14 and regulations and issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions
15 of this Act are hereby repealed accordingly.

16 SEC. 25. **Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared
17 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall
18 remain in full force and effect.

19 SEC. 26. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
20 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

21 Approved,