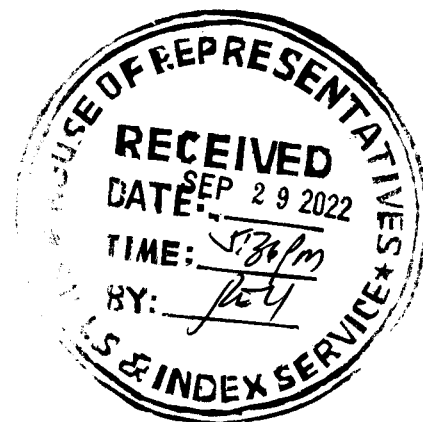


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5296**



Introduced by **REP. PRINCESS RIHAN MANGUDADATU SAKALURAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Municipality of Columbio, Province of Sultan Kudarat as eco-tourism zone.

The Municipality of Columbio with its numerous scenic views of mountains and other natural wonders in almost 9 of its 16 barangays is one of the most sought after tourism destination in the Province of Sultan Kudarat. The Municipality is renowned because of their various forest and nature parks, nature trails, river adventures, rock formations and ecological and hiking trails. Hence, its declaration as eco-tourism zone is a right direction to enhance its tourism viability.

To date, on its own, the tourist influx cannot be simply ignored thus, if declared as eco-tourism zone and be equipped with services and facilities essential as a tourist destination the municipality can be easily developed into a top rate eco-tourism zone. After all, Section 2 of Republic Act 9593 states 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 socioeconomic 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"*.

Verily, tourism offers a wide range of benefits not only to the host municipality but to the country as whole. Tourism boost the revenue of the economy, create jobs, develop infrastructure and improved the municipality's image.

Hence, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

PRINCESS RIHAN MANGUDADATU SAKALURAN

Representative
1st District, Sultan Kud

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HOUSE BILL NO. 5296

Introduced by **REP. PRINCESS RIHAN MANGUDADATU SAKALURAN**

AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF COLUMBIO, PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as "Cumbio Ecotourism Zone Act"

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy- It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally-sensitive, economically viable.

SECTION 3. The Municipality of Cumbio, Province of Sultan Kudarat, is hereby declared an ecotourism zone, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of eco-tourism zones.

The DOT shall prepare the development plan for the Municipality of Cumbio and shall incorporate the same in the overall National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP), pursuant to republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as the "Tourism Act of 2009". The Plan shall be implemented jointly with the Municipality of Cumbio, the Province of Sultan Kudarat, and the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA).

The DOT, in coordination with the Municipality of Cumbio, the Province of Sultan Kudarat, the TIEZA and other concerned agencies of the government, shall

identify well-defined geographic areas within the Municipality of Columbio ecotourism zone, which shall include the La Palmera Mountain Ridges, Asmakol Water park, Fetam Klego Underground River Park, Kolongled Bamboo Forest and Nature Park, Kawing Forest Reserved and Nature Park, Columbio Eco-Tourism Park, Mt. Alip Mountain Ranges Eco-Tourism Adventure Park, Sinalkuhan Trail Adventure, Bitter Lion's Eco Adventure Park, Columbio Circumferential Road Trail, Mt. Bolol Lomot Forest Reserved, Bukay El Nature Trail, Abnahaw Eco-Park, Polomok Eco Adventure, Pangadilan River Adventure & Rock Formations, Salnaong Cultural Tourism, Tacol Falls, Balaisan Eco Trail, Libertad Ecological and Hiking Trail, Columbio Eco 360 Eco Trail and existing infrastructure and facilities therein, and ensure the integrated development of these areas for the optimum utilization of natural assets and attractions, as well as preservation of their historic significance.

SECTION 4. 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 and internally-generated funds of the DOT.

SECTION 5. Within sixty (60) days after effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DOT, in consultation with the Municipality of Columbio, the Province of Sultan Kudarat shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. All laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations and other issuances, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.