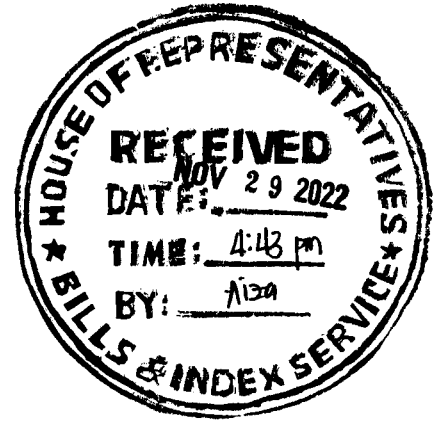


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6467

Introduced by Rep. Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Looc Bay area is located in the Municipality of Looc, Tablas Island, Province of Romblon. It is an ideal tourist destination due to diverse reasons. The Looc Bay is a perfect harbor and cove. It is home to a world renowned protected marine sanctuary which boasts of more than one hundred species of fish and other sea creatures, as well as a heritage lighthouse within the bay. The Looc Bay area has always been considered by the people of Romblon as a natural blessing where they take pride in, because of its unique rock formations and heritage trees.

Visitors in the area can swim in crystal clear waters of the Looc Bay, engage in snorkeling and fish feeding activities, or simply stroll along its serene and powdery white sand beaches.

The Looc Bay area exhibits an undeniable and enormous tourism potential which, if fully tapped and developed, could generate revenues for local businesses, create jobs and exponentially expand employment opportunities, improve basic services in the community and contribute to the upliftment of the quality of life of the people in the community.

Hence, the protection, preservation and development of the area as tourism destination is not only appropriate but long overdue.

Therefore, in the light of the foregoing considerations, the passage of this bill is earnestly and respectfully sought.

ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA
Representative, Lone District of Romblon

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE LOOC BAY AREA LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
LOOC, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON, AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION

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

SECTION 1. The Looc Bay area in the Municipality of Looc, Province of Romblon, is hereby declared an ecotourism destination. Pursuant thereto, its development shall be prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism destinations.

Sec. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the municipal government of Looc shall, in coordination with the DOT, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate infrastructure and facilities to enhance tourism in the area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the area: *Provided further*, That the

implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the municipal government of Looc.

Sec. 3. The DOT shall assist the municipal government of Looc in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include the Looc Bay area in its national and regional promotion programs.

Sec. 4. The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the municipal government of Looc. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally-generated funds.

Sec. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the municipal government of Looc shall, in consultation with the DOT and concerned agencies of the government, promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.

Sec. 6. All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,