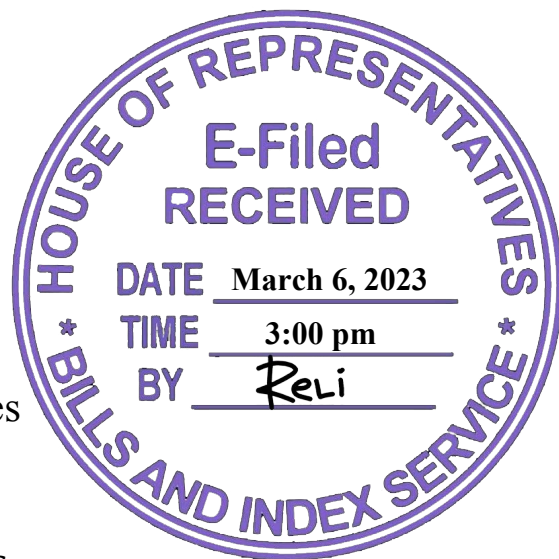




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7439

Introduced by Representative TEODORICO “NONONG” T. HARESCO, JR.

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN INTERNATIONAL CRUISE SHIP PORT AND
APPROPRIATE FACILITIES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NABAS,
PROVINCE OF AKLAN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 9593 otherwise known as “The Tourism Act of 2009” affirms the country’s commitment to promoting tourism. Section 2 of RA 9593 declares that tourism is “indispensable element of the national economy and an industry of national interest and importance, which must be harnessed as an engine of socio-economic 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.”

The country is blessed with natural wonders, such as pristine beaches, stunning coral reefs, and diverse marine life, making it an attractive destination for tourists, particularly those who are looking for unique experiences such as island hopping and scuba diving. Cruise ships offer a convenient way to explore these attractions while providing passengers with luxury accommodations and amenities.

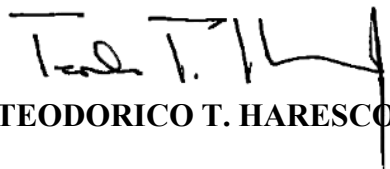
Currently, the Philippines has several ports that accommodate cruise ships, including the Manila South Harbor, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, and the Port of Puerto Princesa in Palawan. Amidst the very few cruise ship ports in the country in contrast with its rich natural coastal

resources, there are now opportunities for the Western Visayas region to accommodate the increasing number of cruise ships visiting the country.

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) has identified the Municipality of Nabas as a strategic location for a premier international cruise ship terminal. The cruise from Nabas can sail through different tourism lures such as Boracay Island, Leganes in Iloilo, Bantayan Island in Cebu and Bohol.

This bill seeks to establish an international cruise ship port and construct appropriate facilities in the Municipality of Nabas, Province of Aklan. Having an international cruise ship port in a strategic location like Nabas will provide tourists with easy access to these attractions, which will contribute to the growth of the local tourism industry, generate employment opportunities for the residents, and support the economic development of the country.

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



TEODORICO T. HARESCO, JR



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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*Nabas International Cruise Ship*
2 *Port Act.*”
3

4 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the State to foster and promote
5 economic development and sustainable tourism throughout the country. Being one of the
6 country’s leading destinations when it comes to tourism, Aklan shall be accorded priority
7 development by the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the Philippine Ports Authority
8 (PPA), the Department of Tourism (DOT), the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone
9 Authority (TIEZA), and other concerned agencies.
10

11 **SECTION 3. *Construction, Installation, and Maintenance of Infrastructure and Facilities.***
12 – The PPA, the DOT, in coordination with the TIEZA and other concerned government
13 agencies, shall give construction priority to Nabas International Cruise Ship Port project for its
14 immediate completion. It shall enhance the project’s current master plan including the plans
15 and designs for the accompanying infrastructure and facilities to cater to new generation of
16 wide-bodied, state-of-the-art luxury cruise ships and to enhance the cruise-ship industry in the
17 province of Aklan.
18

19 **SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The DOT, in consultation with other
20 concerned government agencies, local government unit, and other stakeholders, shall formulate
21 the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within ninety (90) days after its approval.
22

23 **SECTION 5. *Appropriations.*** - The PPA and the DOT shall include in their respective
24 agency’s program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in

25 their respective annual budgets.

26
27 **SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional
28 or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

29
30 **SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order,
31 letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with
32 the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

33
34 **SECTION 8. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
35 the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

36
37 *Approved,*