



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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7483**



INTRODUCED BY REP. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Provincial Government of Samar embarked on an ambitious image building initiative in 2015 to spark the light on Samar, so to speak. Given Samar's reputation of natural calamities, peace and order and economic disparity, the Spark Samar campaign was aimed at tourism and economic development for the province. The program ultimately evolved into the Spark Samar Development Agenda (SSDA).

Tourism circuits were identified with the expansion of trails towards the First District of Samar with the Malajog Ridge to Reef Adventure Trail as its main priority area of development featuring its nature-based, cultural experience and delightful culinary tour circuit in the City of Calbayog. Malajog beach is one of the most popular tourism sites in the City of Calbayog because of its fine black sand. It is located about 15 kilometers from the city proper, about 20 minutes travel time and is accessible to all types of land transport.

The establishment of Malajog Ridge to Reef Adventure Trail as ecotourism site under this proposed bill will promote its potential for other tourism related activities and help complement the current uptick in tourism arrivals in the city as gateway of visitors from other regions. It will also support the sustainable tourism development initiatives under the Spark Samar Development Agenda. Ecotourism and sustainable development give focus on the triple bottom line (3P's in Tourism) – People, Planet and Profit, a framework that is incorporated in the SSDA.

The proposed bill will also place Calbayog City in the tourism map of Eastern Visayas and the Philippines.

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


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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING MALAJOG RIDGE TO REEF ADVENTURE TRAIL IN
THE CITY OF CALBAYOG, PROVINCE OF SAMAR AN ECOTOURISM SITE AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Short title.* - This act shall be known as the “*Malajog Ridge to
Reef Adventure Trail Ecotourism 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 and equitable for local
communities. To this end, the State shall endeavor to provide the proper mechanisms
and infrastructures for sustainable tourism development. It shall promote and develop
certain areas and sites identified as tourist destinations or attractions or having
potential for tourism to drive and propel inclusive growth throughout the country.

SECTION 3. *The Malajog Ridge to Reef Adventure Trail Ecotourism Site.*
The Malajog Ridge to Reef Adventure Trail in the City of Calbayog, Province of Samar
is hereby established as an ecotourism site. Its development shall be incorporated in
the Department of Tourism’s (DOT) National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP)
successor plan for 2023 – 2028 and be jointly implemented with the City of Calbayog

and Provincial Tourism Office of the Province of Samar. The construction and maintenance of infrastructure facilities in the area shall be a shared responsibility of the DOT and the local government unit with emphasis on sustainable development and resource management.

SECTION 4. *Appropriations.* - The DOT, DENR, DPWH, and LGU shall include in its Annual Investment Program (AIP) the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Samar Tourism Council, after due consultation with the DOT, DENR, DPWH, LGUs, and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days after its effectivity. Provided, That the law shall take effect after sixty (60) days with or without the IRR.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and issuances, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall be deemed amended accordingly.

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

Approved,