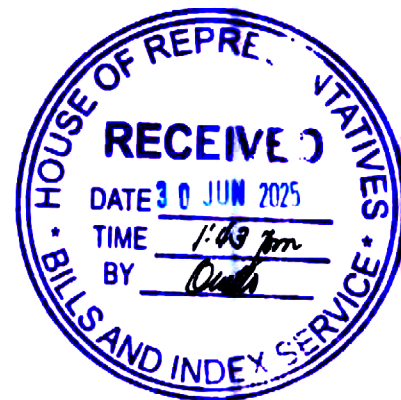


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 391



Introduced by: **Representative RUTH MANGUDADATU SAKALURAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Municipality of Columbio in the Province of Sultan Kudarat as an Eco-Tourism Zone.

Columbio is home to a wealth of scenic natural landscapes, including mountains, forests, rivers, and rock formations, found in nearly nine of its sixteen barangays. These natural wonders have made Columbio one of the most promising tourist destinations in Sultan Kudarat.

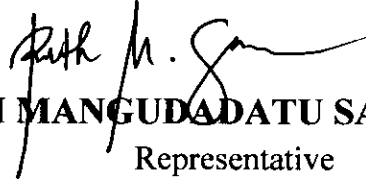
The municipality is particularly known for its forest and nature parks, hiking and ecological trails, river adventures, and striking rock formations. Its wide array of eco-tourism offerings makes it an ideal eco-tourism zone designation. Declaring Columbio as such will enhance its potential by attracting more visitors, increasing investments, and justifying the development of essential tourism facilities and services. Currently, the growing influx of tourists is a testament to Columbio's appeal. However, a formal recognition and support through national policy will ensure the municipality's development into a top-tier eco-tourism destination.

This proposal aligns with Section 2 of Republic Act No. 9593, also known as the Tourism Act of 2009, which declares tourism as an indispensable element of national development. It recognizes tourism as a driver of socio-economic growth, cultural preservation, employment generation, and national pride.

Investing in the preservation and promotion of Columbio's natural beauty offers sustainable, healthful, and long-term benefits—not only for tourists, but also for local communities and the environment. Eco-tourism supports conservation, fosters environmental awareness, and distributes economic opportunities more equitably.

In sum, the development of Columbio as an eco-tourism zone will boost local and national revenue, create jobs, improve infrastructure, and elevate the municipality's image as a premier destination for nature-based tourism.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



RUTH MANGUDADATU SAKALURAN

Representative

First District, Sultan Kudarat

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

391
HOUSE BILL NO. _____

INTRODUCED BY REP. RUTH MANGUDADATU SAKALURAN

AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF COLUMBIO, PROVINCE OF
SULTAN KUDARAT, A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA

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

SECTION 1. The Municipality of Columbio, Province of Sultan Kudarat, is hereby declared a tourism development area (TDA), and hereinafter shall be referred to as the Columbio TDA.

SEC. 2. The Columbio TDA hereby includes the following areas within the municipality that are endowed with scenic landscapes, natural attractions and historical significance:

1. La Palmera Mountain Ridges;
2. Asmakol Water Park;
3. Fetam Klego Underground River Park;
4. Kolongled Bamboo Forest and Nature Park;
5. Kawing Forest Reserved and Nature Park;
6. Columbio Eco-Tourism Park;
7. Mt. Alip Mountain Ranges Eco-Tourism Adventure Park;
8. Sinalkuhan Trail Adventure;
9. Bitter Lion's Eco Adventure Park;

10. Columbio Circumferential Road Trail;
11. Mt. Bolol Lomot Forest Reserved;
12. Bukay El Nature Trail;
13. Abnahaw Eco-Park Polomok Eco Adventure;
14. Pangadilan River Adventure & Rock Formations;
15. Salnaong Cultural Tourism;
16. Tacol Falls;
17. Balaisan Eco Trail;
18. Libertad Ecological and Hiking Trail; and
19. Columbio Eco 360 Eco Trail.

Pursuant thereto, the development of these areas shall be prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourism development areas.

SEC. 3. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the municipal government of Columbio 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 municipality, particularly in identified areas for tourism development: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the areas: *Provided further*, That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the municipal government of Columbio.

SEC. 4. The DOT shall assist the municipal government of Columbio in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism

capacity building. It shall also include the Municipality of Columbio in its national and regional promotion programs.

SEC. 5. The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the municipal government of Columbio. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally-generated funds.

SEC. 6. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the municipal government of Columbio shall, in consultation with the DOT and concerned agencies of the government, promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 7. If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. 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. 9. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,