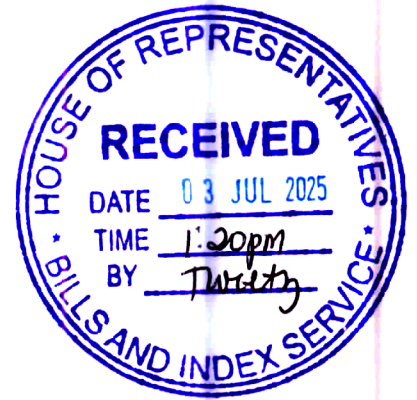




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



20TH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1214

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE FRANCISCO PAOLO P. ORTEGA V**


EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Province of La Union envisions itself to be the Agri-Tourism Center in Northern Luzon by 2025. As such, agri-tourism is expected to spur higher and transformed tourism activities and to intensify the marketing of investment potentials. The Province of La Union leverages on the endowed resources, natural beauty and hospitable and happy people of the province to improve competitiveness.

The municipality of San Juan, which is part of the Central Circuit together with the City of San Fernando and the municipalities of Bacnotan and San Gabriel, capitalizes on the surfing activity as its contribution to the increasing tourist arrivals in the province. Dubbed as the “Surfing Capital of the North”, the municipality proudly hosted the surfing event of the 2019 Southeast Asian Games held in December 2-8, 2019. Even prior to the hosting of the biennial multi-sport event involving eleven (11) countries of the Southeast Asian region, local surfing breaks have been conducted and has drawn numerous tourists.

In this light, this measure seeks the formal declaration of San Juan as the “Surfing Capital of the North.” To this end, appropriations for its development and promotion are likewise pursued.

The foregoing considered, I hereby request for the approval of this bill.


HON. FRANCISCO PAOLO P. ORTEGA V
Representative, 1st District of La Union



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Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE FRANCISCO PAOLO P. ORTEGA V**

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JUAN AS THE “SURFING CAPITAL OF
THE NORTH”, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SEC. 1. This Act shall be known as the “*Declaration of the Surfing Capital of the North Act.*”

SEC. 2. The Province of La Union is hereby declared a tourist destination and the municipality of San Juan as the “Surfing Capital of the North.” As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and other concerned government agencies, and shall be subjected to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourist destinations.

SEC. 3. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the Department of Public Work and Highways, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and other concerned government agencies, shall prepare a tourism development plan involving the construction, installation, and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall develop and promote the beaches and surfing activities of the Municipality of San Juan, and ensuring accessibility and security of tourists thereat.

SEC. 4. The DOT, in coordination with other concerned government agencies, shall take immediate steps to implement the development plan and shall incorporate the same in its tourism developmental programs for the ensuing calendar year.

SEC. 5. 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 from internally-generated funds of the DOT.

SEC. 6. Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in consultation with the local government of the Province of La Union, the Municipality of San Juan and other government agencies concerned, shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation and shall remain valid and effective up to twenty (20) years thereof.

Approved.