

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO **1246**



INTRODUCED BY REP. MAXIMO JR. Y. DALOG

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines boasts of its beautiful and various tourism destinations ranging from heavenly beaches to majestic mountains, waterfalls, lakes, caves and man-made attractions like the different rice terraces in the Northern part of the country. These tourist destinations have in fact attracted millions of visitors every year save for the periods when visitors were not allowed because of the pandemic.

However, despite the number of known tourist destinations, there are a lot of tourism potentials in the country that have yet to be developed, discovered and more importantly preserved. One of these lesser known tourism potentials in the Philippines is the municipality of Barlig in Mountain Province. Barlig, Mountain Province is home to the tenth highest mountain in the Philippines, Mount Amuyao frequented by adventurous local mountaineers for its thick mossy forest cover and abundance of flora and fauna. It is also where the famous Philippine Eagle was sighted in the late 1990s. In addition, Barlig offers varied tourist spots from cascading waterfalls, cool pristine lakes, hot springs, wonderful rock formations, majestic mountain ranges, beautiful rice terraces, burial caves, unique cultural patterns that is showcased during the three festivals in the municipality and the most sought after cool temperature during summer which give an unforgettable and distinctive experience to those who both love nature and culture,

Considering that tourism is a fast-growing industry in the Philippines, there is therefore a need to develop tourism potentials like the municipality of Barlig, Mountain Province.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly urged

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**AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF BARLIG IN MOUNTAIN
PROVINCE A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA**

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

Sec. 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Barlig Tourism Development Area" (Barlig TDA) Act.

Sec. 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 local communities. Towards this end, the State shall endeavor to provide the proper mechanisms and infrastructure for sustainable tourism development. It shall develop and promote certain areas and sites identified as tourist destinations or attractions in order to drive and propel inclusive growth throughout the country.

Sec. 3. Scope and Coverage. The Municipality of Barlig in Mountain Province is hereby declared a tourism development area (TDA), and hereinafter shall be referred to as the Barlig TDA. The following areas within the municipality which are endowed with natural beauty, pristine waters, mountain resources, and historical and cultural significance, shall be included in the Barlig TDA and shall be developed as tourism destinations:

- a. Mount Amuyao and the mountain range of Kadaclan;
- b. Barlig Rice Terraces in Barangays Gawana, Fiangtin, Macalana and Latang;
- c. Kadaclan Rice Terraces in Barangays Lunas, Chupac, Kaleo and Ogo-og;
- d. Lias Rice Terraces and Challos Falls in Barangay Lias Silangan and Lias Kanluran;
- e. Topnew and Lingoy Hotsprings and Lake Tufov in Barangay Lingoy;
- f. Mornang Hotspring, Mornang and Allob Falls, Siblawa Taraw Lake and the Wonderful Rock in Barangay Latang;

- g. Lettang Burial Caves and the Lettang, Moyopoyop and Patyayan Falls in Barangay Lunas;
- h. Or-or Falls in Barangay Kaleo;
- i. Amfitayok Falls in Barangay Ogo-og;
- j. Tokchag Falls in Barangay Gawana;
- k. Lusong Fukian Kan Wikian Rock Formation in Barangay Fiangtin; and
- l. Pangngor Chin Stone and Tomallan Waterfalls in Barangay Macalana.

The development of the Barlig TDA 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. 4. Municipal Tourism Council of Barlig. – There is hereby organized the Municipal Tourism Council of Barlig, hereinafter referred to as the Council, which shall be the primary policy-making, planning and coordinating body in the development of tourism in the Municipality of Barlig and administration of tourism sites thereat.

The Council shall be composed of the:

- a) Mayor of the Municipality of Barlig, as the Chairperson;
- b) Barangay Chairpersons of all barangays of the Municipality of Barlig, who shall elect from among themselves the Vice-Chairperson;
- c) Member of the Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipality of Barlig who is duly designated by such body;
- d) Regional and Provincial Directors of the Department of Tourism (DOT), National Economic Development Authority, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Department of Public Works and Highways;
- e) Provincial Governor of Mountain Province, as *ex-officio* member;
- f) Representative of the Lone District of Mountain Province, as *ex-officio* member; and
- g) Two (2) representatives from the private sector, nominated by the private sector tourism industry organizations in the Municipality of Barlig and appointed by the Chairperson of the Council, who shall serve for a period of two (2) years.

The Council shall have the following functions:

- a) Ensure that constituencies, sectors and groups, whose interests may be affected by the tourism development in the municipality, are given sufficient opportunities to be heard;
- b) Pursue consultations with relevant sectors and constituents, conduct research, and engage the assistance of experts and other resource persons, as may be needed in the performance of its functions;
- c) Formulate programs and recommendations to develop local tourism facilities and attractions;
- d) Assist in monitoring the implementation of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991,” on the matter of licensing of tourism establishment in the locality to ascertain safe and enjoyable stay of travelers;

- e) Strictly enforce sanitary standards in public restrooms located in places frequented by passengers of public utility vehicles and tourism transport services, such as gasoline stations, restaurants along main highways and bus stops;
- f) Appoint the Trust Fund Administrator of the Barlig Tourism Development Trust Fund; and
- g) Perform any other duties in accordance with the guidelines of the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

The Council may create such committees as it may deem necessary, and provide for the functions and the memberships thereof to assist it in the proper and effective performance of its functions. The Council may call on the other government agencies and offices to provide advice and assistance on matters relating to the performance of its functions and the development of tourism in the Municipality of Barlig.

The Municipal Government of Barlig shall provide a Secretariat for the Council.

Sec. 5. *Tourism Development Plan of Barlig.* – Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the Council shall, in coordination with the DOT, the DENR 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 the tourism development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the area: *Provided, further*, That the implementation of the said development plan shall take into consideration Republic Act No. 7586, as amended, otherwise known as the “National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992,”: *Provided, finally*, That the implementation of the development plan shall be included in the budget of the municipal government of Barlig.

Sec. 6. *Role of the Department of Tourism.* – The DOT shall assist the municipal government of Barlig in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance on tourism capacity building. It shall also include the Barlig TDA in its national and regional promotion programs.

Sec. 7. *Barlig Tourism Development Trust Fund.* – There is hereby established a trust fund under this Act to be known as the Barlig Tourism Development Trust Fund for the purpose of financing projects which shall enhance tourism in the municipality. Funds shall be derived from fees collected from visitors, proceeds from the registration and lease of multiple-use areas, including tourism concessions, fees, proceeds and contributions from industries and facilities directly benefiting the municipality, and other resources from the Province.

The Barlig Tourism Development Trust Fund may be augmented by grants and donations, endowment from various sources, domestic or foreign entities and individuals, for purposes related to their functions: *Provided*, That disbursements therefrom shall be in accordance with existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations: *Provided, further*, That it shall not be used for personnel services.

The Barlig Tourism Development Trust Fund shall be administered by a Trust Fund Administrator who shall be under the supervision of the Municipal Tourism Council of Barlig.

Sec. 8. Appropriations. – The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the municipal government of Barlig. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally-generated funds.

Sec. 9. Separability Clause. – 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. 10. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations and other issuances contrary to or inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 11. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,