



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1310**



INTRODUCED BY REP. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

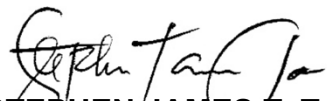
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The First District of Samar Province is endowed with places having potential for tourism such as springs, waterfalls, streams, lakes and other bodies of water, beaches, marine areas, mountains, forests, historical or cultural sites and other natural or man-made sites and attractions that may be of interest to tourists. In line with the Department of tourism's continuous efforts to promote safe and responsible tourism in the Philippines, this proposed bill aims to establish tourism circuits in the First District of Samar Province that will help promote and maximize the economic potential of not just one but all the identified Tourism Development Areas therein. This bill also provides measures to ensure the conservation of the said Tourism Development Areas through the establishment of the Samar Tourism Council, Samar Tourism Development Plan and the Samar Tourism Development Trust Fund.

The establishment of Tourism Circuits under this proposed bill will help give emphasis to the inter-relationship among the cities and municipalities within the Province of Samar that are part of the same destination. These tourism circuits will create a tourism value chain among the municipalities and cities concerned. Moreover, these tourism circuits will help increase the volume of visitors in all the tourist destinations in the Province of Samar since it collectively promotes all these tourist destinations.

The proposed bill will also help in the further growth and development of the tourism destinations in the Province of Samar in line with their declaration as Tourism Development Areas (TDA).

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


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AN ACT ESTABLISHING TOURISM CIRCUITS IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF SAMAR, IDENTIFYING AND DECLARING THE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREAS THEREIN, CREATING THE SAMAR PROVINCE TOURISM COUNCIL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE

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 “First District of Samar Province Tourism Circuit 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. *Definition of terms.* - The words, language and expression found in this Act shall be interpreted in accordance with their usual meaning and usage, in such a manner that would most accurately depict the legislative intent.

- a) Service centers - areas near or within attraction sites where there is concentration of tourism establishments
- b) Tourism Circuit - a cluster of tourism attractions within a geographic area, grouped together for marketing purposes. These attractions include a variety of travel experiences, including nature, farm, culinary, beach, and dive tourism. Tourism circuits can either be inter-regional or intra-regional.
- c) Tourism Development Area - an area representing a functional and sustainable unit with tourism infrastructure, which ensures an efficient use of resources and an improvement in tourism development
- d) Tourist Destination - natural, cultural, or historical sites that tourists visit.

SECTION 4. *Tourism Circuits.* There shall be tourism circuits passing through the first district of Samar Province to the end that a tourist who enters at the entry point should get motivated to visit all the places identified on the circuit.

For purposes of this act, a tourism circuit shall consist of a route on which at least three (3) tourist destinations included in the Tourism Development Area mentioned in this Act, which none of these are in the same municipalities or cities. Provided, that the tourist destination shall not be separated by a large distance. Provided further, that the tourism circuit shall have a well-defined entry and exit points such that a tourist could cover them

in a sequence. Provided lastly, that there should be at least one service center within the circuit.

Accordingly, the following tourism circuits in the first district of Samar are hereby established:

- a.) Calbayog – Sta. Margarita – Gandara – Catbalogan – Tacloban (Secret Kitchens of Samar)
- b.) Samar Island Natural Park (SINP) Circuit (Philippine Eagle Trail)
- c.) Calbayog Eco-Historical Circuit (Malajog zipline/Bangon Falls/City Historical Tours)
- d.) Island Municipalities of Samar Circuit (Daram, Zumarraga, Sto. Niño, Tagapulan, Almagro)

Pursuant thereto, the Department of Tourism in coordination with the concerned Local Government are hereby given the authority to determine the appropriate tourism circuits in the first district of Samar Province subject to the above provided requisites.

SECTION 5. *Tourism Development Area.* - The following tourist destination areas located within the first district of Samar endowed with natural, historical and cultural beauty shall be included in the First District of Samar Province Tourism Development Area and are thus developed as tourist destinations therein:

- a. Spanish-Built School House, Calbayog City, Samar;
- b. CKC Samar Archaeological Museum, Calbayog City, Samar;
- c. Malajog Ridge Leisure Park and Zipline, Calbayog City, Samar;
- d. Looc beach, Calbayog City, Samar;
- e. Bangon False, Calbayog City, Samar;
- f. Tarangban Falls, Calbayog City, Samar;
- g. Guinogoan Cave, Calbayog City, Samar;
- h. Onayan Falls, Calbayog City, Samar;
- i. Busay Falls, Calbayog City, Samar;
- j. Cogon Falls, Calbayog City, Samar
- k. Danao Cave, Calbayog City, Samar;
- l. Danao Dam, Calbayog City, Samar;
- m. Ton-ok Falls, Calbayog City, Samar;
- n. Amamaliwan Falls, Calbayog City, Samar;
- o. Dawo Falls, Calbayog City, Samar;
- p. Caunpawa Cave, Calbayog City, Samar;
- q. Monastery of the Poor Claires, Calbayog City, Samar;
- r. Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Calbayog City, Samar;

Other areas in the First District of Samar Province that have potential for tourism such as springs, waterfalls, streams, lakes and other bodies of water, beaches, marine areas, mountains, forests, historical or cultural sites and other natural or man-made sites and attractions that may be of interest to tourists, shall be included among the tourist destination areas under this Act after consultation with the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the conduct of a survey and verification by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) in coordination with the Provincial Government of Samar.

Provided, that the Tourist Destinations identified in the abovementioned Tourism Development Area shall be the basis in the determination of Tourism Circuits mentioned in the immediately preceding section.

SECTION 6. *Samar Tourism Council.* - (1) There is hereby created the Samar Tourism Council, hereinafter referred to as Council, which shall be the primary policy-making, planning and coordinating body in the development of tourism in the Province of Samar and the administration of tourism sites therein. The Council shall be composed of the following members:

- a) Provincial Governor of Samar, as Chairperson;
- b) Mayors from the municipalities and cities of the Province of Samar, who shall elect from among themselves the Council's Vice Chairperson;
- c) One (1) Member from each district of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Samar, duly designated by among their respective Sanggunian district members; and
- d) Two (2) representatives from the private sector, appointed by the Chairperson of the Council, who shall serve for a period of three (3) years.

The Council shall create such committees for every municipality or city within the first district of Samar and provide for the functions and the memberships thereof to assist it in the proper and effective performance of its functions.

(2) In order to provide assistance and support to the Council in the performance of its function, the concerned Local Government Unit (LGU), in coordination with the Department of Tourism (DOT), Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), shall delineate well defined geographic areas within the tourism circuits and coordinate the integrated development of these sites for the optimum use of natural assets and attractions, as well as existing facilities: Provided, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation of the ecological balance and natural beauty of the area.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), including the latter's attached agencies, in coordination with the DOT and Council, shall prioritize the construction and improvement of the necessary infrastructure to support tourism development in the First District of Samar and incorporate in their annual infrastructure programs.

SECTION 7. *Functions of the Council.* - The Council shall have the following functions:

- a) Assist in the regulation and supervision of tourism-oriented establishments which may include but is not limited to those establishments operated by People's Organizations (PO) and other similar organizations, thereby ensuring wholesome and clean tourism activities;
- b) Formulate programs and manage local resources and funds to develop local tourism facilities and attractions;
- c) Assist in monitoring the implementation of the Local Government Code on the matter of licensing of tourism establishments in the locality to ascertain safe and enjoyable stay of travelers;
- d) Perform any other duties in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Interior and Local Government, as well as the implementing rules and regulations which shall be promulgated in accordance with this Act.

SECTION 8. *Tourism Development Plan.* - The Tourism Development Plan of the First District of Samar Province shall be incorporated in the Department of Tourism's (DOT) overall National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP) and be jointly implemented with the Local Government and Provincial Tourism Council of Samar Province taking into consideration Republic Act No. 7586, otherwise known as "National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992", and its implementing rules and regulations.

SECTION 9. *Tourism Development Trust Fund.* There is hereby established a trust fund under this Act to be known as the Samar Province Tourism Development Trust Fund for

purposes of financing projects which shall enhance tourism in the First District of Samar Province. The Trust Fund shall be administered by a Trust Fund Administrator under the Provincial Tourism Council of Samar Province.

Income shall be derived from fees from visitors/tourists, fees from permitted sale and export of flora and fauna and other resources from the province, proceeds from the registration and lease of multiple-use areas, including tourism concessions, fees, proceeds, and contributions from industries and facilities directly benefiting the province. The respective committees created by the Tourism Council for every city or municipality within the First district of Samar will be solely responsible for the collection of the aforementioned fees.

The 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 the Trust Fund shall not be used to cover personal services expenditures.

SECTION 10. *Appropriations.* - The DOT, DENR, DPWH, DOTC, 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 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Samar Tourism Council, after due consultation with the DOT, DENR, DPWH, DOTC, 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 12. *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 13. *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 14. *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,