

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2680



Introduced by Honorable ALFONSO V. UMALI JR.

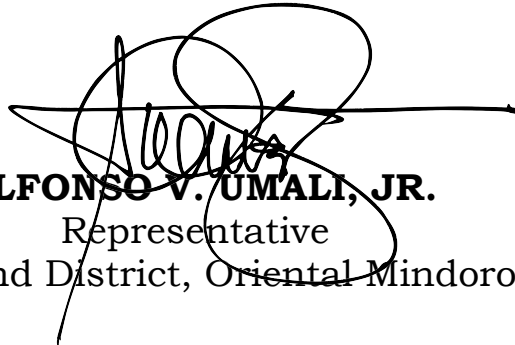
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure seeks to create the Mindoro Island Sustainable Development Council. The council will serve as a unified body to coordinate environmental protection, inclusive economic development, indigenous peoples' rights, and climate resilience initiatives. Given Mindoro's ecological richness, cultural diversity, and strategic location, a consolidated approach is urgently needed to ensure long-term, equitable, and sustainable growth for all its inhabitants.

Let it be known that Mindoro is one of the country's most ecologically and culturally significant islands. It is home to critical biodiversity and diverse marine ecosystems. It is home to the Mangyan indigenous communities whose ancestral lands span in both provinces. It is likewise home to very abundant natural resources.

However, despite these assets, Mindoro faces fragmented development plans, environmental degradation, disaster vulnerability, and marginalization of indigenous peoples. Short to say, the absence of a centralised mechanism for sustainable development impedes the island's full potential.

Therefore, the undersigned hopes for the immediate passage of this bill to ensure a shared vision and roadmap for the island's future - one that honors its people, protects its environment, and promotes prosperity for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alfonso V. Umali, Jr.', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract, with a large loop at the end.

ALFONSO V. UMALI, JR.
Representative
Second District, Oriental Mindoro

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AN ACT
CREATING THE MINDORO ISLAND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL,
PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as “**Mindoro Island Sustainable Development Act.**”

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared as policy of the State to free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment and improve standard of living and quality of life.

Similarly, it is also hereby declared as a policy of the State to protect and conserve the integrity of its natural resources and implement sustainable development in the communities.

Section 3. *Mindoro Island Sustainable Development Council (MISDC).* - There is hereby created the Mindoro Island Sustainable Development Council (MISDC) which shall act as a special governing, implementing and policy formulating body serving under the Office of the President. It shall be composed of the Provincial Governor of Oriental Mindoro, Provincial Governor of Occidental Mindoro, the Members of the House of Representatives representing

the legislative districts in Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro, the Deputy Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority, the Undersecretary for Planning of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Undersecretary for Planning of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Undersecretary for Planning of the Department of Agriculture, Undersecretary for Planning of the Department of Tourism, President of the League of Mayors of both Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro, respective Presidents of the provinces' Liga ng mga Barangay, the Executive Director of the Mindoro Council for Sustainable Development, and such other members from public or private sectors as the majority of the Council may deem necessary.

The Council shall elect from among its members a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and a Secretary.

Section 4. Powers and Functions of the MISDC. - The MISDC is hereby vested with the following powers and functions:

1. Formulate plans and policies as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act;
2. Promote human development, attainment of economic growth, as well as the development, conservation, management, protection and utilization of the natural resources of the Mindoro Island;
3. Coordinate with the National and Local Governments to ensure that the latter's plans, programs and projects are aligned with that of the MISDC;
4. Call on any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality, and coordinate with private entities and organizations for cooperation and assistance in the performance of its functions;
5. Arrange, negotiate for, accept donations, grants, gifts, loans, or other fundings from domestic and foreign sources to carry out the purposes of the Strategic and Integrated

Development Plan (SIDP);

6. Delegate any or all of its powers and functions to its support staff, as hereinafter provided, except those which, by provisions of law, cannot be delegated;
7. Establish policies and guidelines for employment on the basis of merit, technical competence and moral character and prescribe compensation and staffing pattern;
8. Adopt, amend and rescind such rules and regulations and impose penalties therefore for the effective implementation of the SIDP and the other provisions of this Act;
9. Enforce the provisions of this Act and other existing laws, rules and regulations similar to or complementary with this Act;
10. Perform such other functions as may be necessary in carrying out its functions, powers and the provisions of this Act.

Section 5. Compensation. -The members of the MISDC shall be entitled to per diems and allowances in accordance with existing laws in the performance of their duties and in carrying out the business of the Council. The per diems shall be in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00) for every meeting; *Provided*, that the per diems collected by any member in one (1) month shall not exceed the equivalent of per diems of four (4) meetings.

Section 6. Strategic and Integrated Development Plan. -A comprehensive framework for the sustainable development of Mindoro Island shall be formulated by the MISDC to be known as the Strategic and Integrated Development Plan (SIDP) for Mindoro. It shall incorporate the principles of people-centric development, inclusive growth, human development through poverty alleviation, economic development through strengthening of the sectors of agriculture and tourism, and enhancing the natural resources and endangered environment of the Island of Mindoro. It shall also serve as a guide to the local governments of the two provinces in the

Island of Mindoro as well as the national government agencies concerned in the formation and implementation of their respective development plans, programs and projects. The SIDP shall be formulated within the period of one (1) year from the time of the first formal convening of the Council.

The Regional Development Council of the MIMAROPA Region (Region IV-B) shall ensure that the SIDP is incorporated in the Regional Development Plan of Region IV-B.

Section 7. MISDC Support Staff. -Within the period of one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the MISDC shall identify the staffing and other requirements in order for it to carry out the provisions and objectives of this Act.

Section 8. Appropriations. -The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

Section 9. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions, not affected thereby, shall remain valid and subsisting.

Section 10. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations and/or administrative regulations, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified, superseded or repealed accordingly.

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

Approved,