



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 5431

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Tourism, when developed responsibly, serves as a powerful engine for inclusive growth, rural development, and environmental stewardship. Ecotourism, in particular, promotes sustainable travel to natural areas while conserving the environment and improving the well-being of local communities. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the sector contributed 8.9% to the country’s GDP in 2024 and generated a total of 6.75 million jobs—an increase of 6.1% from 2023.¹

Tourism also drives local economies, promotes cultural heritage, and enhances environmental awareness. As of the third quarter of 2023, Central Luzon—where the Province of Bulacan is located—recorded 2.8 million tourist arrivals, with 2.6 million domestic visitors and nearly 198,000 foreign tourists, according to the Department of Tourism (DOT).²

Doña Remedios Trinidad (DRT), the largest municipality in Bulacan with a land area of more than 93,000 hectares, represents both an ecological treasure and a cultural asset in Central Luzon. Established in 1977 through Presidential Decree No. 1196, DRT is home to mountain ranges, waterfalls, caves, rivers, and heritage sites, making it a natural destination for ecotourism. Nearly one-third of Bulacan’s total land area falls within DRT’s boundaries, further underscoring its strategic ecological significance.

Among its many natural and cultural attractions are the Puning Cave in Barangay Bayabas, Secret Falls in Barangay Camachile, the Candle Monument in Barangay Camachin, the Tila-Pilón Hills in Barangay Kalawakan, Verdivia Falls in Barangay Talbak, and the Caribbean Waves Resort in Barangay Pulong Sampaloc. A 2020 survey identified more than 40 potential tourist sites in the municipality, reflecting its

¹ Philippine Statistics Authority. Tourism Contributes 8.9 Percent to the Philippine Economy in 2024. Published on 19 June 2025. Available at <https://psa.gov.ph/statistics/tourism> (Accessed on 10 July 2025).

² Philippine Statistics Authority. Tourism Posted Highest Growth in 2023, Contributing 8.6 % to the Economy. Published on 18 June 2024. Available at <https://www.psa.gov.ph/statistics/tourism> (Accessed on 10 July 2025).

enormous potential for eco-adventure, cultural tourism, and community-based enterprises.³

Despite this wealth of natural and cultural resources, much of DRT remains underdeveloped or inaccessible due to the absence of infrastructure, technical support, and formal designation as a tourism priority area. Without a clear policy framework, these areas face the risks of neglect, unregulated exploitation, and environmental degradation.

This bill therefore seeks to formally declare Doña Remedios Trinidad as an ecotourism zone, enabling it to receive priority support from the DOT, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and other relevant agencies. This designation will empower the local government, in partnership with national institutions, to craft and implement a tourism development plan that balances infrastructure development with environmental protection, and economic opportunity with cultural preservation.

Declaring DRT as an ecotourism zone will unlock its full tourism potential while safeguarding its natural assets for future generations. Most importantly, it will uplift the lives of its people by creating sustainable livelihood opportunities, generating employment, and strengthening the local economy.

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


EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

³ GMA News. Meet the tourism hero of Doña Remedios Trinidad. Published on 26 December 2020. Available at <https://www.gmanetwork.com/entertainment/celebritylife/travel/71723/meet-the-tourism-hero-ofdonaremedios-trinidad/story> (Accessed on 10 July 2025).



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HOUSE BILL NO. 5431

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF DOÑA REMEDIOS TRINIDAD, PROVINCE
OF BULACAN, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the *"Doña Remedios*
2 *Trinidad Ecotourism Zone Act."*
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration as Ecotourism Zone** - The Municipality of Doña Remedios
5 Trinidad, Province of Bulacan, is hereby declared an ecotourism zone.

6 Pursuant thereto, the Department of Tourism (DOT) shall support and prioritize
7 the development of the area subject to the rules and regulations governing the
8 development of ecotourism zones.
9

10 **SEC. 3. Tourism Development Plan.** - Within one (1) year after the approval of
11 this Act, the Municipal Government of Doña Remedios Trinidad shall, in coordination
12 with the DOT, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other
13 concerned government agencies, prepare a tourism development plan which shall
14 include the construction, installation, and maintenance of appropriate facilities and
15 infrastructure to enhance tourism in the area: Provided, That said development plan
16 shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of
17 the area: Provided, further, That the implementation of the tourism development plan
18 shall be included in the budget of the Municipal Doha Remedios Trinidad.
19

20 **SEC. 4. Assistance to the Local Government Unit.** - The DOT shall provide
21 technical assistance in tourism capacity building to the Municipal Government of Doha
22 Remedios Trinidad, for the proper implementation of the tourism development plan.
23 The DOT shall also include the Municipality of Doña Remedios Trinidad, in its national
24 and regional promotion programs.
25

1 **SEC. 5. Funding.** - The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be
2 included in the annual budget of the Municipal Government of Doña Remedios
3 Trinidad. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally generated funds.
4

5 **SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60) days from
6 the effectivity of this Act, the Municipal Government of Doña Remedios Trinidad shall,
7 in consultation with the DOT, DENR, and other concerned agencies of the government,
8 promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.
9

10 **SEC. 7. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
11 unconstitutional, the remainder hereof or any provisions not affected thereby shall
12 remain in force and effect.
13

14 **SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
15 executive order, letter of instruction, rule, or regulation inconsistent with the provisions
16 of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

17 **SEC. 9. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
18 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
19

20 *Approved,*