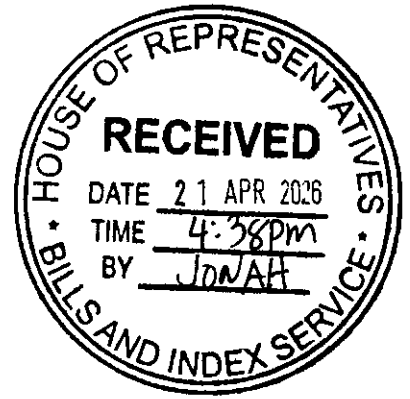




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8922



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CARLOS ANDES LORIA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Province of Albay, particularly Legazpi City has emerged as a strategic gateway to the Bicol Region, with globally recognizable assets such as Mayon Volcano and the Albay Gulf. Yet despite its sustained tourism momentum, Albay remains without a world-class meetings, incentives, conventions, and exhibitions (MICE) facility to host large-scale conventions, trade fairs, and international cultural events.

This bill proposes the establishment of the Albay International Convention Center (AICC) Complex in the hill portion of Lamba, Legazpi City, facing the Albay Gulf near Embarcadero, with a planned main plenary capacity of around 5,000 delegates and a complete ecosystem of exhibition halls, breakout rooms, hospitality, parking, retail, and public spaces positioning Legazpi City and Albay as Southern Luzon's premier MICE destination. The envisioned complex integrates a convention center, exhibition facilities, a convention hotel, multi-level parking, a retail-dining village, and wellness and public realm components within an estimated 10-hectare site.

Anchored on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP)-ready framework with the Department of Tourism (DOT) and Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) as lead agencies working in coordination with DPWH, the Provincial Government of Albay, and the City Government of Legazpi the project seeks to catalyze tourism jobs, value-chain linkages, and regional investment while ensuring resilience, sustainability, and transparent governance in line with national policy.

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


CARLOS A. LORIA
Representative
2nd District, Albay



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8922

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CARLOS ANDES LORIA

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE ALBAY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER
(AICC) COMPLEX IN THE CITY OF LEGAZPI, PROVINCE OF ALBAY,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “Albay International
2 Convention Center (AICC) Act.”
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is the policy of the State to promote tourism-driven
5 inclusive growth, regional development, and international cooperation through
6 competitive MICE infrastructure that enhances the Philippines’ capacity to host
7 conventions, exhibitions, trade fairs, and cultural events, while upholding disaster
8 resilience, sustainability, and good governance.
9

10 **SEC. 3. Establishment of the AICC Complex; Location and Purpose.** There is
11 hereby established the Albay International Convention Center (AICC) Complex, to be
12 located in the hill portion of Lamba, Legazpi City, Province of Albay, facing the Albay
13 Gulf, as the principal venue in Southern Luzon for national and international
14 conventions, conferences, trade exhibitions, cultural and tourism events, and related
15 activities.
16

17 **SEC. 4. Components and Minimum Facilities.** The AICC Complex shall include, at
18 minimum: (a) a main convention center with a grand plenary hall of not less than 5,000
19 seats and a banquet-convertible configuration; (b) exhibition halls with modular
20 partitions, loading docks, and logistics areas; (c) meeting rooms, breakout halls, VIP
21 lounges, press briefing center, translation booths, and media center; (d) a convention

1 hotel and related accommodations consistent with internationally accepted MICE
2 standards; (e) multi-level parking facilities with bus bays and EV charging; (f) retail
3 and dining village, culinary hub, and souvenir/tourism retail; (g) wellness and fitness
4 amenities; (h) public realm improvements including event plazas, landscaped areas,
5 viewing decks, and pedestrian connectivity; and (i) utilities and site development
6 covering access roads, drainage, power, water, ICT, safety and security systems, and
7 water/waste management.

8
9 **SEC. 5. Land Area and Site Development.** The national government, through the
10 implementing agencies and in coordination with the Provincial Government of Albay
11 and the City Government of Legazpi, shall identify, reserve, or acquire an estimated ten
12 (10) hectares for the AICC Complex, and undertake the needed site development
13 consistent with the approved master plan and applicable land use and environmental
14 laws.

15 **SEC. 6. Lead and Implementing Agencies; Inter-Agency Coordination.** The
16 Department of Tourism (DOT) shall be the lead policy and coordinating agency. The
17 Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) shall serve as
18 implementing entity for planning, design, financing, construction, operation and
19 maintenance, either directly or through allowable modalities under existing law. The
20 Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall support off-site and
21 connecting infrastructure. The Provincial Government of Albay and the City
22 Government of Legazpi shall extend assistance in right-of-way/site preparation, local
23 clearances, and enabling ordinances.

24
25 **SEC. 7. Project Delivery and Financing Modalities.** The AICC Complex may be
26 delivered through Public-Private Partnership (PPP), joint venture, design-build, build-
27 operate-transfer, or other lawful arrangements, subject to PPP and procurement laws,
28 their implementing rules and regulations, and relevant guidelines. Viability gap/subsidy
29 support, usufruct/long-term lease of government land, and revenue-sharing
30 mechanisms may be employed to ensure bankability, subject to standard safeguards.

31
32 **SEC. 8. Resilience, Safety, and Sustainability Standards.** The AICC Complex shall
33 be designed and built-in accordance with: (a) disaster risk reduction and management
34 (DRRM) and multi-hazard standards for seismic, volcanic, wind, and flood risks; (b)
35 green building codes and energy/water efficiency; (c) universal accessibility; and (d)
36 digital infrastructure for high-capacity connectivity and broadcast-ready facilities. A
37 comprehensive operations sustainability plan shall be adopted covering waste
38 management, water reuse, and emissions reduction.

39
40 **SEC. 9. Tourism Enterprise Zone (TEZ) and Investment Promotion.** Subject to
41 evaluation by TIEZA, the AICC Complex and contiguous areas may be designated as
42 a Tourism Enterprise Zone (TEZ) or integrated into such zone to enable incentives and
43 integrated destination development, consistent with law and TIEZA rules.

44
45 **SEC. 10. AICC Governing and Operating Arrangement.** TIEZA, in coordination
46 with DOT and local government units, shall determine the governance and operating
47 model (e.g., government-owned/controlled operator, concessionaire/service
48 management organization, or PPP operator) and may establish an AICC Program
49 Management Office (PMO) to oversee procurement, construction, commissioning, and
50 performance management.

1 **SEC. 11. Appropriations.** The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this
2 Act including pre-investment activities, master planning, detailed architectural and
3 engineering designs, environmental and social safeguards, and priority site
4 development shall be charged against current appropriations of the DOT and/or the
5 TIEZA, and other available sources consistent with law. Thereafter, such sums as may
6 be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the
7 annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) and/or provided through any of the funding
8 sources enumerated under Section 11-A of this Act, in accordance with the selected
9 project delivery/PPP structure and pertinent budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules.

10
11 **SEC. 11-A. Funding Sources.** The development, construction, operation, and
12 maintenance of the AICC Complex may be financed through a mix of public and private
13 sources, including but not limited to: (1) annual GAA appropriations for DOT, TIEZA,
14 and DPWH for on-site and connecting works; (2) TIEZA Corporate Operating Budget
15 and other lawful internal funds; (3) PPP modalities (e.g., BOT/Concession/Lease/JV,
16 availability payments, viability gap/credit support, and revenue-sharing), consistent
17 with PPP/procurement laws and IRRs; (4) LGU counterpart funding from the
18 Provincial Government of Albay and City Government of Legazpi; (5) Official
19 Development Assistance (ODA) and other concessional financing; (6) grants,
20 donations, and endowments accepted in accordance with law; (7) GOCC/GFI financing
21 and capital market instruments, including lawful borrowing and green/sustainability-
22 linked bonds; and (8) TEZ-related investments and incentives, where applicable.

23
24 **SEC. 11-B. AICC Special Account; Authority to Accept Funds.** To ensure
25 transparent and efficient financial management, TIEZA, in coordination with DOT,
26 may establish an AICC Special Account for receipts and disbursements pertaining to
27 the project, subject to existing government accounting and auditing rules. DOT/TIEZA
28 are authorized to accept grants, donations, endowments, technical assistance, and in-
29 kind contributions from domestic or foreign sources, and to enter into cooperation
30 agreements with public or private entities for purposes consistent with this Act.

31
32 **SEC. 11-C. Multi-Year Contracting Authority.** In view of the project's scale and
33 phasing, the implementing agency or agencies may enter into multi-year contractual
34 arrangements (including PPP contracts) for design, construction, operations, and
35 maintenance, subject to the approval of competent authorities and compliance with
36 multi-year obligational authority (MYOA) and other applicable regulations.

37
38 **SEC. 11-D. Disbursement Triggers and Performance Safeguards.** Release of public
39 funds shall be milestone-based and tied to deliverables specified in the approved
40 investment program or PPP contract, with performance securities, defects liability
41 provisions, and output/outcome indicators to ensure value for money, transparency, and
42 accountability.

43
44 **SEC. 12. Procurement, Transparency, and Accountability.** All procurements shall
45 comply with applicable procurement and PPP laws and rules. The implementing
46 agencies shall maintain a public dashboard with project milestones, contract documents
47 (as legally allowable), and periodic reports on budget, physical progress, environment
48 and social safeguards, and operations.

49 **SEC. 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).** Within ninety (90) days from
50 effectivity, DOT and TIEZA, in coordination with DPWH, the Provincial Government

1 of Albay, and the City Government of Legazpi, shall promulgate the IRR to implement
2 this Act.

3
4 **SEC. 14. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional
5 or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and
6 effect.

7
8 **SEC. 15. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations
9 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

10 **SEC. 16. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
11 the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

12
13 Approved,