Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 191

Submitted by the Committees on Tourism and Appropriations on **March 16, 2026**
Re : House Bill No. 1666
Recommending its approval with amendments
Sponsors : Representatives Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona and Mikaela Angela B. Suansing

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Mr. Speaker:

The Committees on Tourism and Appropriations to which was referred House Bill No. 1666, introduced by Representative Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona, entitled:

"AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOSE, POPULARLY KNOWN AS ISLA DE CARABAO, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON, A TOURISM DESTINATION"

have considered the same and recommend its approval with the following amendments:

1. On Section 4, page 2, first paragraph, after the punctuation mark period (.), insert the sentence: THE DOT MAY AUGMENT SUCH ALLOCATION WITH INTERNALLY GENERATED FUNDS.

2. On the same section and page, delete the second paragraph, "The DOT through the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), if necessary, may include such allocation in the TIEZA's program."

with Representatives Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona, Junard "Ahong" Q. Chan, Rosalie Ang Salvame, Rommel Rico T. Angara, Jose C. Alvarez, Elisa "Olga" T. Kho, Dibu S. Tuan, Florencio T. Miraflores, Tsuyoshi Anthony "Hori" G. Horibata, John Geesnell "Baba" Yap, Caroline B. Agyao, MD, Ustadz Yusop T. Alano, Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Romeo S. Momo, Sr., Ronald V. Singson, Patricia C. Calderon, Rebecca Maria Alcantara Ynares, Dale B. Corvera, Celso G. Regencia, Jane T. Castro, Alyssa Michaela "Mica" M. Gonzales, Binky April M. Tupas, Salvador A. Pleyto, Marlo C. Bancoro, Eulogio "Leo" R. Rodriguez, Ferdinand "B1" L. Beltran, Niko Raul S.J. Daza, Rachel Marguerite B. Del Mar, Howard A. Guintu, Angelo Marcos Barba, John Tracy F. Cagas, Timothy Joseph E. Cayton, King Collantes, Antonino B. Roman III, Laarni Lavin Roque, Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., and Lordan G. Suan as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

REP. MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

REP. ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA
Chairperson
Committee on Tourism

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

Republic of the Philippines
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Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1666

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

With 7,641 islands, the Philippines continue to thrive as one of the best tourism destinations in the world, which is home to spectacular natural wonders, such as the Chocolate Hills of Bohol, Mayon Volcano of Albay, and Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park of Palawan. These wonders make tourism as one of the most promising industries in the country, which remains to be a powerful engine for a strong and sustained economic growth by creating job and investment opportunities, while preserving and developing our natural wealth for the succeeding generations.

The island Municipality of San Jose of the Province of Romblon used to be called Hambil and was initially inhabited by the Aetas. As it bears a semblance to a water buffalo's back, it was later renamed as Isla de Carabao by the Spanish conquistadores Miguel Lopez de Loarca. While the island is largely untouched, it is yet to be discovered by tourists across the world because it has the same treasures as powdery white sands and crystal-clear turquoise waters found in its famous counterparts, Boracay and Palawan, without the hustle and bustle for a peaceful, yet memorable leisure and recreation.

At the minimum, tourists can frolic in its tropical waters and witness the sunrise from Poblacion beach on the east side, while enjoying the rest of the panoramic viewpoints. The island offers a variety of experience for tourists like spelunking, cliff jumping, mountain biking, hiking, kiteboarding and windsurfing. Ultimately, with more than ten (10) dive sites around the island, it is certainly a promising diving paradise of the country, where tourists can marvel at the beauty of its underwater landscape with colorful species of fish and kaleidoscopic corals that continue to lure underwater photographers. Hence, several dive shops were already established in the island that are fully equipped and managed by the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI).

The declaration of Isla de Carabao as a tourism destination is only fitting to continue to preserve and develop its natural beauty, while achieving its fullest potential as a top tier tourism destination in the country. It will also generate investments and promote socio-economic activities that will be beneficial not only to the Municipality of San Jose, but for the entire country as well.

In view of the foregoing, this bill is, therefore, earnestly recommended for immediate approval.

ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1666

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA

AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOSE, POPULARLY KNOWN AS ISLA DE CARABAO, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON, A TOURISM DESTINATION

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

SECTION 1. The Municipality of San Jose, popularly known as Isla de Carabao, Province of Romblon, is hereby declared a tourism destination. As such, its development shall be prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourism destinations.

SEC. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the Municipal Government of San Jose shall, in coordination with the DOT, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 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 said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the area: *Provided further*, That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the Municipal Government of San Jose.

SEC. 3. The DOT shall assist the Municipal Government of San Jose in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include Isla de Carabao in all its national and regional promotion programs.

SEC. 4. The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the Municipal Government of San Jose.

The DOT through the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), if necessary, may include such allocation in the TIEZA's program.

SEC. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Municipal Government of San Jose shall, in consultation with the DOT and concerned agencies of the government, promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 6. All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,