

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 366

Submitted by the Committees on Tourism and Appropriations on **May 28, 2026**

Re : House Bill No. **9508**

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3534

Sponsors : Representatives Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, and
Faustino “Bojie” G. Dy III

Mr. Speaker:

The Committees on Tourism and Appropriations to which was referred House Bill No. 3534, introduced by Representative Faustino “Bojie” G. Dy III, entitled:

AN ACT
DECLARING BARANGAY SAN MIGUEL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
ECHAGUE, PROVINCE OF ISABELA, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. **9508**, entitled:

AN ACT
DECLARING BARANGAY SAN MIGUEL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
ECHAGUE, PROVINCE OF ISABELA, AS AN ECOTOURISM ZONE

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 3534 with Representatives Faustino “Bojie” G. Dy III, Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, 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 R. SUANSING

Chairperson

Committee on Appropriations



REP. ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA

Chairperson

Committee on Tourism

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 9508
(In substitution of House Bill No. 3534)

Introduced by Representatives Faustino “Bojie” G. Dy III, Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, 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

AN ACT
DECLARING BARANGAY SAN MIGUEL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ECHAGUE,
PROVINCE OF ISABELA, AS 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 “San Miguel Ecotourism Zone
2 Act.”

3 **SEC. 2.** *Barangay San Miguel as an Ecotourism Zone.* - Barangay San Miguel in the
4 Municipality of Echague, Province of Isabela, is hereby declared an ecotourism zone. Pursuant
5 thereto, its development shall be prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism
6 (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.

7 **SEC. 3.** *San Miguel Ecotourism Development Council.* - The San Miguel Ecotourism
8 Development Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, is hereby created. It shall be
9 composed of ten (10) members, as follows:

1 a) *Ex-Officio* Members

- 2 1) DOT Regional Director for Region 2, as Chairperson;
- 3 2) Mayor of the Municipality of Echague, as Co-Chairperson;
- 4 3) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Regional Director for
- 5 Region 2, or a duly authorized representative;
- 6 4) Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Regional Director for Region
- 7 2, or a duly authorized representative;
- 8 5) Punong Barangay of Barangay San Miguel;
- 9 6) Provincial Tourism Officer of the Province of Isabela; and
- 10 7) Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer of the Province of Isabela.

11 b) Sectoral Members

- 12 1) One (1) representative from an academic institution, preferably from a university or
- 13 college in the Province of Isabela, with proven track record in or related to the
- 14 conservation of forests and wildlife;
- 15 2) One (1) representative from the private sector, preferably a resident of the Province of
- 16 Isabela, who is distinguished in a profession or field of interest relevant to the
- 17 conservation of forests and wildlife or to ecotourism; and
- 18 3) One (1) representative from either non-governmental organization (NGO) or people's
- 19 organization (PO), duly accredited both by the DENR and the Municipal Government
- 20 of Echague. The NGO or PO represented should have been in existence for at least
- 21 five (5) years with a track record in the conservation of forests and wildlife.

22 The *ex-officio* elective members of the Council shall serve for the duration of their

23 respective terms of office to which they are elected.

24 The *ex-officio* appointive members of the Council shall serve for the duration of the

25 period they hold the office to which they are appointed.

1 The sectoral members of the Council shall be selected by the Sangguniang Bayan of the
2 Municipality of Echague in a fair and transparent manner. They shall each serve a term of three
3 (3) years and may be reappointed for another term.

4 The members of the Council shall serve without compensation, but shall be authorized
5 to actual and necessary travel and subsistence expenses incurred in the performance of their
6 duties, either in their attendance in meetings of the Council or in connection with their official
7 functions authorized by a resolution of the Council, subject to existing rules and regulations.

8 Each member shall have the full capacity and accountability for decisions binding to the
9 member's sector.

10 A member of the Council may be removed for any of the following grounds:

- 11 a) more than three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from regular meetings of the
12 Council;
- 13 b) commission of acts prejudicial to the development and management of the ecotourism
14 zone;
- 15 c) disassociation from the office or organization being represented;
- 16 d) termination of relationship with the office or organization being represented; or
- 17 e) conviction by final judgment of any criminal act.

18 The Municipal Government of Echague shall provide a Secretariat for the Council, to
19 be headed by the Municipal Tourism Officer, and provide funds to defray the expenses of the
20 Secretariat in line with the performance of its official functions and the conduct of the Council's
21 activities.

22 **SEC. 4. Functions and Responsibilities of the Council.** - The Council shall have the
23 following functions and responsibilities:

- 24 a) Formulate and implement an ecotourism development and management plan in
25 consultation with the local residents, businesses, and other stakeholders;

- b) Assess and evaluate the potential impact of development plans and activities to the environmental safety and well-being of the ecotourism zone, communities and enterprises;
- c) Provide technical and financial assistance to the communities within and surrounding the ecotourism zone;
- d) Formulate the rules and regulations in relation to the maintenance and security of the ecotourism zone; and
- e) Perform other functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Formulation of Standards and Guidelines.* - The DOT and the DENR shall assist the Council in the formulation of local ecotourism standards and recommend guidelines to ensure that biodiversity conservation and environmental protection are integrated in the development and management of the ecotourism zone.

These local ecotourism standards shall:

- a) raise the capacity of all stakeholders and ensure that best ecotourism practices are adopted;
- b) ensure optimal use of water and energy;
- c) reduce waste and pollution through environmentally-sound waste management disposal schemes;
- d) encourage the use of local produce and services, and support the employment of local people; and
- e) prevent vandalism in the ecotourism zone.

SEC. 6. *Role of the DOT.* - The DOT shall assist the Municipal Government of Echague in the implementation of the ecotourism development and management plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include Barangay San Miguel in its national and regional promotion programs.

1 **SEC. 7. *Coordination with National Agencies.*** - The Council shall coordinate with the
2 regional and provincial offices of the DOT, DENR, Department of Public Works and Highways,
3 Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Transportation, Department of
4 Agriculture, Department of Education, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of the
5 Interior and Local Government, Philippine National Police, and other concerned agencies of the
6 government in the implementation of this Act.

7 **SEC. 8. *Appropriations.*** - The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be
8 included in the annual budget of the Municipal of Government of Echague. The DOT may
9 augment such allocation with internally generated funds.

10 **SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (60) days after the
11 effectivity of this Act, the Municipal Government of Echague shall, in consultation with the
12 DOT and concerned agencies of the government, promulgate the rules and regulations to
13 implement this Act.

14 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act shall be declared
15 unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain to be in full force
16 and effect.

17 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders,
18 proclamations, presidential decrees, and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions
19 of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

20 **SEC. 12. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
21 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

22 Approved,