



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9511

BY REPRESENTATIVES DY (F.), MADRONA, SUANSING (M.A.), CHAN (J.), SALVAME, ANGARA, ALVAREZ (J.), KHO (E.), TUAN, MIRAFLORES, HORIBATA, YAP (J.G.), AGYAO, ALANO, DALOG, MOMO, SINGSON (R.V.), CALDERON, YNARES, CORVERA, REGENCIA, CASTRO, GONZALES (A.M.), TUPAS, PLEYTO, BANCORO, RODRIGUEZ (E.), BELTRAN, DAZA, DEL MAR, GUINTU, BARBA, CAGAS, CAYTON, COLLANTES, ROMAN, ROQUE, UMALI, SUAN AND ALBANO

AN ACT
IDENTIFYING TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREAS IN THE PROVINCE OF
ISABELA, MANDATING SUPPORT FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT, AND
CREATING THE ISABELA TOURISM COUNCIL

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

- 1 **SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State
2 to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative,
3 culturally sensitive, economically viable, and equitably beneficial to local communities.
4 To this end, the State shall endeavor to provide the proper mechanisms and infrastructure
5 for sustainable tourism development. It shall develop and promote certain areas and sites
6 identified as tourism destinations or attractions in order to drive and propel inclusive
7 growth throughout the country.

Pursuant thereto, all areas within the Province of Isabela endowed with natural beauty or historical and cultural significance, with either existing or potential integrated leisure facilities developed for one or more tourism purpose, shall be considered tourism development areas (TDAs).

SEC. 2. *Identification and Declaration of Tourism Sites.* – The areas in the Province of Isabela that have potential for tourism shall be declared as ecotourism, cultural heritage tourism, health and wellness tourism, general leisure tourism, or mixed-use tourism sites after consultation with the Department of Tourism (DOT): *Provided, That* areas in environmentally protected areas shall not be declared tourism sites without consultation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The survey and verification of the areas shall be conducted by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority, in coordination with the Provincial Government of Isabela and local government units (LGUs) of identified tourism sites.

SEC. 3. *Isabela Tourism Council.* – There is hereby created the Isabela Tourism Council, hereinafter referred to as Council, which shall be the primary policy-making, planning, and coordinating body in the development of tourism in the Province of Isabela and the administration of tourism sites therein. It shall be composed of the following members:

(a) Provincial Governor of Isabela, as Chairperson;

(b) Municipal Mayors of all the municipalities and cities of the Province of Isabela, who shall elect from among themselves the Vice-chairperson;

(c) Member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Isabela, duly designated by such body; and

(d) Two (2) representatives from the private sector, appointed by the Chairperson of the Council, who shall serve for a period of two (2) years.

1 The Provincial Government of Isabela shall provide a Secretariat for the Council
2 including the funding necessary to cover expenses for the performance of its official
3 functions and activities.

4 **SEC. 4. *Functions of the Council.*** – The Council shall have the following
5 functions:

6 (a) Identify and declare areas as tourism sites;

7 (b) Formulate programs and recommendations and manage local resources and funds
8 to develop local tourism facilities and attractions;

9 (c) Assist in the regulation and supervision of tourism-oriented establishments, thereby
10 ensuring wholesome and clean tourism activities;

11 (d) Assist in monitoring the implementation of the Local Government Code on the
12 licensing of tourism establishments in the locality to ascertain safe and enjoyable
13 stay of travelers;

14 (e) Strictly enforce health and sanitary standards in public restrooms frequented by
15 public utility vehicles and tourist transport services, i.e., gasoline stations and
16 restaurants along main highways and bus stops; and

17 (f) Perform any other duties in accordance with the guidelines issued by the
18 Department of the Interior and Local Government.

19 **SEC. 5. *Isabela Tourism Development Plan.*** – The Council, in coordination with
20 the Provincial Government of Isabela, LGUs of identified tourism sites, DOT, DENR, and
21 concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan for the
22 Province of Isabela. It shall delineate well defined geographic areas within the tourism
23 sites and coordinate the integrated development of these sites for the optimal use of natural
24 assets and attractions, as well as of existing facilities: *Provided, That* said development
25 plan shall ensure the preservation of the ecological balance and natural beauty of the areas:

1 *Provided, further,* That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be
2 included in the respective budgets of the municipal governments of identified tourism sites.

3 **SEC. 6. *Role of the DOT.*** – The DOT shall assist the Council and concerned
4 LGUs in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical
5 assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include the TDAs in the Province of
6 Isabela in its national and regional tourism promotion programs.

7 **SEC. 7. *Appropriations.*** – The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be
8 included in the respective annual budgets of the municipal governments of identified
9 tourism sites. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally generated funds.

10 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days after the
11 effectivity of this Act, the Council shall, in consultation with concerned LGUs, DOT,
12 DENR, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Transportation,
13 Department of Economy, Planning, and Development, and other concerned agencies of the
14 government, promulgate the rules and regulations to implement this Act.

15 **SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act shall be declared
16 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full
17 force and effect.

18 **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders,
19 proclamations, presidential decrees, and other issuances inconsistent with any of the
20 provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

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

 Approved,