



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9545

BY REPRESENTATIVES ALANO, MADRONA AND SUANSING (M.A.)

AN ACT
DECLARING LAMPINIGAN ISLAND IN THE CITY OF ISABELA, PROVINCE OF
BASILAN, 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 “Lampinigan
2 Ecotourism Zone Act.”

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State
4 to promote a sustainable and effective tourism industry to attract tourists, both local
5 and foreign.

6 To this end, the country shall rationalize all efforts to make the tourism industry
7 a major source of livelihood and an avenue for economic development. Moreover,
8 measures shall be taken to ensure that tourism development is consistent with the
9 national policy of protecting and conserving the natural environment thereat.

10 **SEC. 3. *Lampinigan Ecotourism Zone.*** – The Lampinigan Island in the City
11 of Isabela, Province of Basilan, is hereby declared an ecotourism zone. Pursuant
12 thereto, its development shall be prioritized and supported by the Department of

Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.

SEC. 4. Lampinigan Ecotourism Development Plan. – Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the City Government of Isabela shall, in coordination with the DOT, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Office of the Representative of the Lone District of Basilan, and concerned agencies of the government and civil society organizations, prepare the Lampinigan Ecotourism 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, resources, and indigenous nature of the locality: *Provided, further*, That the implementation of the development plan shall be included in the budget of the City Government of Isabela.

SEC. 5. Lampinigan Ecotourism Board. – There is hereby created the Lampinigan Ecotourism Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of the following members:

- (a) Mayor of the City of Isabela, as Chairperson;
- (b) A representative from the DOT, as Vice Chairperson;
- (c) A representative from the DENR, as Vice Chairperson;
- (d) The Representative of the Lone District of Basilan, or a duly authorized representative;
- (e) City Tourism Officer;
- (f) City Environment and Natural Resources Officer;
- (g) A representative from an accredited non-governmental organization with tourism and/or environmental advocacy;

1 (h) A representative from an academic institution; and

2 (i) A representative from the business sector.

3 The City Government of Isabela shall provide a Secretariat for the Board,
4 including the funding necessary to cover the expenses for the performance of its
5 functions and activities.

6 The Board shall ensure that the Lampinigan Ecotourism Development Plan, as
7 provided in Section 4 of this Act, is implemented, and that any program, project, or
8 activity in Lampinigan Island is in accordance therewith.

9 Furthermore, the Board is hereby authorized to propose additions and/or
10 amendments to the said development plan, as may be necessary.

11 **SEC. 6. Role of the DOT.** – The DOT shall assist the City Government of
12 Isabela in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical
13 assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include Lampinigan Island in its
14 national and regional promotion programs.

15 **SEC. 7. Appropriations.** – The funding for the implementation of this Act shall
16 be included in the annual budget of the City Government of Isabela. The DOT may
17 augment such allocation with internally generated funds.

18 **SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days after
19 the effectivity of this Act, the City Government of Isabela shall, in consultation with the
20 DOT, DENR, and concerned agencies of the government, promulgate the rules and
21 regulations to implement this Act.

22 **SEC. 9. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared
23 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full
24 force and effect.

1 **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, rules, regulations, presidential
2 decrees, and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are
3 hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,