

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



'14 JUL 14 P3:53

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: *je*

S. B. No. 2308

Introduced by Senator LOREN LEGARDA

AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF TALAINGOD, DAVAO DEL NORTE AS
AN ECO-CULTURAL TOURISM ZONE ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE
TALAINGOD CULTURAL HERITAGE VILLAGE, PROVIDING FOR ITS
DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

With an estimated population of 26,000 people, the municipality of Talaingod in the province of Davao del Norte serves as the home of the Ata Manobos, who safeguard one of the last remaining tropical rainforests in the country along the Pantaron Range. Aside from being stewards of the environment, the Ata Manobos lead in the preservation of their cultural heritage through their craftsmanship, which includes the creation of liyang baskets made from the wild bamboo grass called *bagtok* and beaded necklaces, anklets and bracelets with the unique Ata Manobo pattern.

In recognition of the unique position of Talaingod as an environmental and cultural center, this measure seeks to declare Talaingod as an eco-cultural tourism zone and to establish a cultural heritage village to conserve and promote the rich and distinctive customs and traditions of indigenous peoples living there. With the adoption of an eco-cultural tourism zone, the highly diverse and rich culture of the indigenous peoples in Talaingod such as those of the Ata Manobo will be protected and preserved.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is sought.


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The Municipality of Talaingod in Davao del Norte is hereby declared as
2 an eco- cultural tourism zone, establishing for the purpose the Talaingod Cultural
3 Heritage Village. As such it shall be accorded priority development by the Department
4 of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the
5 development of tourist zones.

6 **SEC. 2.** The DOT, in coordination with the local government units concerned and
7 relevant agencies of the government, shall, within one (1) year after the approval of
8 this Act, prepare a development plan involving the construction, installation and
9 maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure which shall enhance
10 tourism in the area; Provided, that the said development plan shall ensure the
11 preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and indigenous nature of the area;
12 Provided further, that the development plan shall consider programs and strategies
13 that will generate livelihood and employment opportunities for the local community.

14 **SEC. 3.** The Department of Tourism shall promote the Talaingod cultural heritage
15 village in all its national, regional and local promotion programs.

16 **SEC. 4.** The DOT shall include in the Department's program the implementation of
17 this Act, the funding of which shall be charged against the internally generated funds
18 of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and/or the
19 appropriations in the annual General Appropriations Act.

20 **SEC. 5.** The DOT shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper
21 implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days after its enactment.

22 **SEC. 6.** All laws, rules, regulations, proclamations, executive orders or parts thereof
23 inconsistent with this Act are hereby modified or amended accordingly.

24 **SEC. 7.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

25 **Approved,**