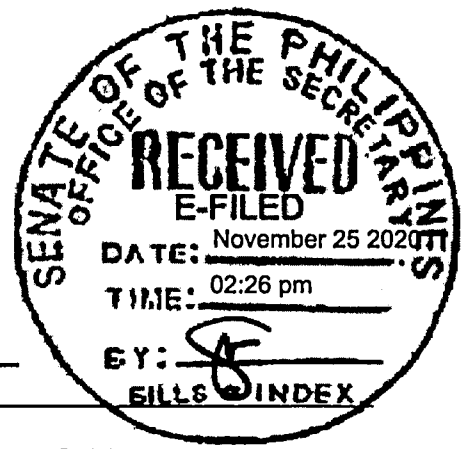


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
P. S. Res No. 583



Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF ECOTOURISM
SITES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

1 WHEREAS, under Executive Order No. 111, s. 1999, Establishing the Guidelines
2 for Ecotourism Development in the Philippines, it is the policy of the state to ensure
3 the sustainable use, development, management, protection and conservation of the
4 country's environment and natural resources and cultural heritage for the enjoyment
5 of the present and future generations;
6

7 WHEREAS, the National Ecotourism Policy is embodied in Republic Act No. 9593
8 or The Tourism Act of 2009 (RA 9593). Under Section 33 of RA 9593, the Department
9 of Tourism, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural
10 Resources (DENR), shall identify areas covered by the National Integrated Protected
11 Areas System with ecotourism potentials and cultural heritage value, and prepare
12 policies, plans and programs for their development, preservation, operation or
13 conversion into Tourism Enterprise Zones;
14

15 WHEREAS, the National Ecotourism Strategy and Action Plan 2013–2022 (NES)
16 was adopted in 2014. The goal of the NES is: "Environmentally and socially
17 responsible ecotourism development that safeguards the integrity and diversity of its
18 natural resources, provides education and enjoyment to visitors and delivers larger
19 and more widely distributed income and employment opportunities to the local
20 communities and their constituents, especially the women, youth, indigenous peoples,
21 and other vulnerable groups";
22

23 WHEREAS, according to the NES, with over 7,000 islands, the natural resource
24 base of the country for ecotourism consists of a diverse array of wetland, mountains,
25 volcanoes, rugged cliffs, seascapes, coasts, beaches, lakes, forests, caves, fields, and
26 a rich variety of plants and animals. As a "megadiversity" country, the Philippines
27 offers one of the best destinations for ecotourism in Asia and the ASEAN region;

28 WHEREAS, a National Geographic travel article, titled: *"Sustaining happiness:*
29 *eco-friendly fun in the Philippines"*, identified Boracay, Manila Bay and Sagada as eco-
30 tourism spots to visit in the country;

31
32 WHEREAS, TTG Asia, in an article posted on June 8, 2020, titled: *"Ecotourism*
33 *to flourish in the Philippines under new normal"*, reported that ecotourism, an
34 alternative to mass tourism, is poised to reign supreme in the Philippines' travel
35 industry's transition to the new normal post-Covid-19 according to experts at the
36 Ecotourism Philippines webinar;

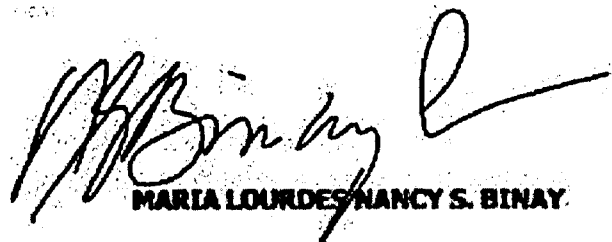
37
38 WHEREAS, in a recent study, the Department of Science and Technology-
39 National Research Council of the Philippines identifies best practices and offers policy
40 recommendations for Philippine ecotourism sites. The study considered 16 eco-
41 tourism sites in the country: 7 sites in Luzon (including Masungi Georeserve Park in
42 Rizal), 3 sites in Visayas and 6 sites in Mindanao. According to the study, ecotourism
43 will be an effective tool for sustainable development if this is aligned with the
44 Philippine economic development and conservation strategies;

45
46 WHEREAS, ABS-CBN News, in a news article posted on October 26, 2020, titled:
47 *"Fence illegally put up in Masungi Georeserve removed, but threat remains"*, reported
48 that Masungi Georeserve and the area around it has been facing various threats in the
49 past several months. In March, a quarry company installed barbed wires, claiming
50 parts of the protected area. While the DENR was able to immediately remove the
51 barbed wire, the geopark also saw increased incidents of illegal logging and forest
52 burning during the COVID-19 lockdown;

53
54 WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Senate to conduct an inquiry on the matter
55 to determine the status of ecotourism sites and identify the potentials and challenges
56 of ecotourism development in the country;

57
58 BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Senate to direct the
59 Senate Committee on Tourism to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the status
60 of ecotourism sites across the country.

Adopted,


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY