### NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session



'22 NOV 29 P5:14

SENATE S.B. No. <u>1566</u> )

RECEIVED BY:

**Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.** 

#### **AN ACT**

REQUIRING A BASIC FIRST AID TRAINING FOR PERSONNEL OF TOURISM ENTERPRISES, TOURISM-ORIENTED NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS, AND INDIVIDUAL PROVIDERS OF TOURISM-RELATED SERVICES

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Republic Act No. 9993 otherwise known as "The Tourism Act of 2009" provides that the "State declares tourism as an indispensable element of the national economy and an industry of national interest and importance, which must be harnessed as an engine of socio-economic growth and cultural affirmation to generate investment, foreign exchange and employment, and to continue to mold an enhanced sense of national pride for all Filipinos."

According to the 2014 Survey of Tourism Establishments in the Philippines (STEP) conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), "there were a total of 39,325 establishments in the formal sector of the economy engaged in tourism characteristic activities." The total number of workers in the said industry was almost 800,000.

During the first quarter of 2019, the Department of Tourism (DOT) recorded a 7.59% increase in the tourist arrivals to the Philippines.

Tourism Direct Gross Value Added (TDGVA) serves as the indicator to measure the value added of different industries in relation to tourism activities of both inbound and domestic visitors in the country. Records show that TDGVA has been steadily increasing, signifying the importance of the tourism industry in our economy. For the years 2000-2010, its average share to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was about 5.8%. This improved to 14.8% in 2014, 8.2% in 2015, 8.6% in 2016, 12.2% in 2017, and 12.7% in 2018.

Given the vast coverage of tourism and its important role in our society, it is but proper to ensure the safety, not only of the tourists, but of all stakeholders. Those people who are at the forefront of this industry should, therefore, be equipped with first aid skills that they can use in any circumstances anywhere they need it.

This bill requires personnel of tourism enterprises and tourism-oriented non-government organizations (NGOs), people's organizations (POs), and individual providers of tourism-related services to undergo basic first aid training from the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) or other reputable training institutions. It also directs the local government units (LGUs) that the abovementioned organizations are equipped with first aid kits.

The immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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# REQUIRING A BASIC FIRST AID TRAINING FOR PERSONNEL OR TOURISM ENTERPRISES, TOURISM-ORIENTED NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS, AND INDIVIDUAL PROVIDERS OF TOURISM-RELATED SERVICES

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

SECTION 1. The State recognizes tourism as an indispensable element of the national economy and an industry of national interest and importance. Towards this end, the State shall develop the necessary human resources that shall advance sustainable tourism and the safety of tourists in the country. The State shall ensure that personnel providing tourism service be equipped with the necessary skills and training to achieve these objectives.

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Sec. 2. Personnel of tourism enterprises and tourism-oriented non-government organizations (NGOs) and people's organizations (POs), as well as individual providers of tourism-related services are required to undergo basic first aid training provided by the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) or other reputable institutions offering such training. The PRC and such other training institutions shall issue the appropriate training certification for this purpose.

As a requirement for the renewal of their business permits, all tourism enterprises shall submit to the concerned local government units (LGUs) a sworn statement attesting that their personnel have undergone such training, attaching the copies of the individual training certificates thereto.

The concerned LGUs shall facilitate the registration of personnel of tourismoriented NGOs and Pos, and individual providers of tourism-related services under their jurisdiction as trainees of basic first aid training seminar and coordinate with the PRC or other reputable institutions for the provision of such training.

Sec. 3. The concerned LGUs shall ensure that tourism enterprises and tourismoriented NGOs and POs are equipped with first aid kits. A periodic inspection for this purpose shall be conducted by the concerned LGUs.

Sec. 4. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Tourism, in coordination with concerned agencies of the government, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

Sec. 5. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 6. All laws, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.