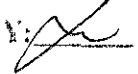


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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P.S. Resolution No. 522

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT A STUDY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON EDGY AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES IN ECO-TOURISM THAT CAN REVITALIZE THE PHILIPPINE TOURISM INDUSTRY AND HELP DRAW A RECORD NUMBER OF TOURISTS IN THE COUNTRY AND THEREBY GENERATE JOBS AND OTHER ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR PEOPLE.

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines provides that:

“The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.”;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9147 otherwise known as the "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act declares it the policy of the State to:

“conserve the country's wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainability. In the pursuit of this policy, this Act shall have the following objectives:

(a) to conserve and protect wildlife species and their habitats to promote ecological balance and enhance biological diversity;

(b) to regulate the collection and trade of wildlife;

(c) to pursue, with due regard to the national interest, the Philippine commitment to international conventions, protection of wildlife and their habitats; and

(d) to initiate or support scientific studies on the conservation of biological diversity.”;

WHEREAS, tourism is changing rapidly as nature, heritage, and recreational destinations become more important; this presents a challenge to government and private enterprise to develop new approaches to the tourism market;

WHEREAS, ecotourism is considered the fastest growing market in the tourism industry, according to the World Tourism Organization it has an annual growth rate of 5% worldwide and representing 6% of the world gross domestic product, 11.4% of all consumer spending;¹

WHEREAS, the Philippines is home to active and dormant volcanoes that has a lot of tourist potential but remains untapped because of the lack of facilities and infrastructure to promote volcanic tourism, if pursued, the country can draw more volcano enthusiasts because of several unique volcanic features in the country such as the Taal Volcano Caldera, the Mt. Pinatubo Crater Lake and the steep trek on the slopes of Mayon Volcano, the volcano with the most perfect cone;


WHEREAS, atomic or nuclear tourism is a new trend in the industry that can be adopted by the Philippines, we can make use of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant as a means for people to learn about atomic power²;

WHEREAS, bird watching is also an emerging trend in eco-tourism, the Philippines, being one of the areas in the world with a high concentration of endemic and migratory birds can be a new destination for bird enthusiasts from around the world; through this the likes of Candaba in Pampanga, Olango Island in Bohol and Sibuyan Island in Romblon can become major eco-tourism destinations;

WHEREAS, focus should be directed to this emerging sector in the tourism industry as it has the least impact on the environment, it is also beneficial to the local communities, as it generates employment and stimulates the economy by providing new opportunities for small-scale investments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to direct the Senate Committees on Tourism and Environment and Natural Resources to conduct a study, in aid of legislation, on edgy and innovative approaches in eco-tourism that can revitalize the Philippine Tourism Industry and help draw a record number of tourists in the country and thereby generate jobs and other economic opportunities for our people.

Adopted,


MANNY VILLAR

¹ As cited in <http://www.gdrc.org/uem/eco-tour/etour-define.html> June 30, 2011 11:30 AM

² Nuclear Tourism, Anyone? "Business World" Tuesday June 28, 2011 P1 Print