

SENATE

S. No. 1692



SENATE
Office of the Secretary

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

'18 FEB 13 P3:01

AN ACT
CREATING THE BAGUIO CITY, LA TRINIDAD, ITOGON, ~~SABLAN, TUBA~~ AND
TUBLAY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (BLISTTDA), DEFINING ITS POWERS
AND FUNCTIONS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Explanatory Note

This bill seeks to create the Baguio City, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay Development Authority (BLISTTDA).¹

Baguio City is a mountain resort city located in Northern Luzon, Philippines. Through the years, Baguio has developed from what was once a grassy marshland into one of the cleanest and greenest, highly urbanized cities in the country. It is known as the Summer Capital of the Philippines, owing to its cool climate, foggy hills, panoramic views and delightful blooms and foliage. Its rich culture and vast resources have lured numerous investments and created business opportunities for the city.

However, problems associated with rapid growth and urbanization have become more evident in Baguio City. The environmental protection, tourism influx, traffic congestion, adequate water supply, waste management and the provision of basic services have now become an immense challenge. With people's lives increasingly pivoting around major commercial centers, Baguio City is often paralyzed by traffic congestion and shopping mayhem. While the number of automobiles and tourists increased, the city's infrastructure has failed to keep up.

This proposed measure intends to manage the development planned for the City and nearby municipalities. The proposed BLISTTDA will render services that will respond to the challenges and problems that the City is facing. It will rationalize the use of infrastructure and thoroughfares, institute transport and traffic management system including the implementation of a single ticketing system. This bill also intends to create a master plan in building alternative roads that will help ease the traffic congestion in order to lessen carbon emission and eventually make everyday lives of the people more convenient.

The BLISTTDA will provide and manage engineered sanitary landfill and treatment facility for solid wastes that is acceptable to the City and its nearby municipalities. Included in the proposal are provisions for an integrated flood control, drainage, and sewerage system. It also includes the implementation of contingency plans and mobilization of resources for relief operations in coordination with national agencies concerned in times of calamities and disasters.

¹ This is a counterpart bill to House Bill No. 6974 authored by Rep. Mark O. Go

The proposal to create BLISTTDA offers a road map that will serve as the platform for the acceleration of the social, economic, and political development of Baguio City and its adjoining municipalities that will benefit the people.

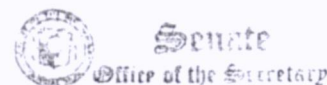
In the light of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



RALPH G. RECTO

SENATE

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CREATING THE BAGUIO CITY, LA TRINIDAD, ITOGON, ~~SABLAN~~, TUBA, AND
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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1.** *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
2 pursue the acceleration of social, economic, and political development of Local Government
3 Units (LGUs) and their communities through the creation of special development and
4 administrative areas that will ensure the efficient and effective planning, supervision, and
5 coordination of essential basic services, without prejudice to the autonomy of the LGUs
6 concerned.

7 **SECTION. 2.** *Creation and Mandate of the Baguio City, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan,*
8 *Tuba, and Tublay Development Authority (BLISTTDA).* There is hereby created a government
9 instrumentality to be named as the Baguio City, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba, and Tublay
10 Development Authority, referred also as BLISTTDA, which shall administer a special
11 development and administrative area embracing the City of Baguio and the municipalities of La
12 Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba, and Tublay. BLISTTDA shall be under the direct supervision of
13 the President of the Philippines.

14 BLISTTDA shall serve as the platform for the acceleration of the social, economic, and
15 political developments in the area as a unified management unit by allowing the LGUs to
16 respond to common developing challenges through unified, effective, and economically effective
17 programs and undertakings. It shall perform planning, monitoring, and coordinative functions. It
18 shall also exercise regulatory and supervisory authority over the distribution of area-wide
19 services within the jurisdictions of the city and municipalities concerned without reducing the
20 autonomy of the LGUs on local matters.

21 **SECTIO. 3.** *Scope of BLISTTDA Services.* – The services under the jurisdiction of
22 the BLISTTDA are those that will affect all or majority of the population or an extensive part of
23 the territory, and transcending local political boundaries such that it would not be viable for said
24 services to be provided by an individual LGU. These services include

1 (a) Development Planning and Preparation of Medium- and Long-Term Development
2 Plans. – Evaluation and packaging of development projects; investments programming and
3 coordination; and monitoring of program and project implementation;

4 (b) Urban Renewal, Land Use Planning, and Housing and Shelter. – Formulation, adoption
5 and implementation of policies, standards, programs, and projects to rationalize and enhance
6 urban land use taking into consideration urban growth and expansion. These shall address the
7 rehabilitation and development of identified areas and the development of shelter and housing
8 facilities with provisions for necessary social services;

9 (c) Transport and Traffic Management. – Formulation, coordination, and monitoring of
10 policies, standards, and programs that will rationalize the existing transport operations,
11 infrastructure requirements, use of thoroughfares, and promotion of safe and convenient
12 movement of persons and goods. These shall include the administration and implementation of
13 traffic enforcement operations, traffic engineering services, and the institution of a single
14 ticketing system;

15 (d) Solid Waste Disposal and Management. – Formulation and implementation of policies,
16 programs, and projects for the proper and sanitary disposal of solid waste. It shall likewise
17 include the establishment and operation of sanitary landfill, waste to energy projects, eco-
18 composting facility (ECR) and related facilities, and the implementation of other alternative
19 programs intended to reduce, reuse, and recycle solid waste;

20 (e) Flood Control and Sewerage Management. – Formulation and implementation of
21 policies, standards, programs, and projects for an integrated flood control, drainage, and
22 sewerage system;

23 (f) Water Resource System. – Formulation and implementation of policies, programs, and
24 projects for a comprehensive water resource system which shall include the establishment of
25 water harvesting and distribution facility;

26 (g) Health, Sanitation, and Pollution Control. – Formulation and implementation of
27 policies, standards, and programs to safeguard public health and maintain sanitation. It shall
28 ensure the promotion of ecological balance and the prevention and control of environmental
29 pollution; and

30 (h) Public Safety and Order. – Formulation and implementation of programs, policies, and
31 procedures to maintain public safety, including preparedness for preventive or rescue operations
32 during times of calamities and disasters. It shall include the implementation of contingency
33 plans, and mobilization of resources for relief operations in coordination with national agencies
34 concerned.

35 **SEC. 4.** *BLISTTDA Council.* – There shall be a Baguio, La Trinidad, Itogon,
36 Sablan, Tuba, and Tublay (BLISTT) Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, which shall
37 serve as the governing board and policy-making body of BLISTTDA. The Council shall be
38 composed of the Governor of the Province of Benguet, the congressional representatives of

1 Baguio and Benguet, and the mayors of the City of Baguio and the municipalities of La Trinidad,
2 Itogon, Sablan, Tuba, and Tublay, as *ex officio* members.

3 The duly authorized representatives of the National Economic and Development Authority
4 (NEDA), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Public Works and Highways
5 (DPWH), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Information and Communications
6 Technology (DICT), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Housing and Urban
7 Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
8 (NCIP), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department
9 of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Science and Technology
10 (DOST), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Philippine National Police (PNP)
11 shall attend meetings of the Council as nonvoting members.

12 In addition to the *ex officio* members, there shall be a Chairman, to be appointed by the
13 President of the Philippines, and shall continue to hold office at the discretion of the appointing
14 authority. The Chairman shall be vested with rank, rights, privileges, disqualifications, and
15 prohibitions of a cabinet member.

16 The Chairman shall act as the Chief Executive Officer of BLISTTDA.

17 The Chairman and members of the Council are entitled to allowances and per diems in
18 accordance with existing policies, rules, and regulations on the matter.

19 **SECTION. 5.** *Powers and Functions of BLISTTDA.* – BLISTTDA shall exercise the
20 following powers and functions:

21 (a) Formulate, coordinate, and regulate the implementation of medium- and long-term
22 plans and programs for the distribution of services, land use, and physical development within
23 BLISTT, consistent with national development objectives and priorities. The medium-term
24 investment programs for BLISTT-wide services shall indicate sources and allocation of funds for
25 priority programs and projects;

26 (b) Undertake and manage its programs and projects for the delivery of specific services
27 under its jurisdiction, subject to the approval of the Council. For this purpose, BLISTTDA shall
28 create appropriate project management offices;

29 (c) Coordinate and monitor the implementation of such plans, programs, and projects in the
30 City of Baguio and component municipalities; identify bottlenecks and adopt solutions to
31 problems of implementation;

32 (d) Set policies concerning traffic and coordinate and regulate the implementation of all
33 programs and projects concerning traffic management. It may seek assistance and cooperation,
34 including assignment of personnel, from other government agencies concerned if necessary.
35 Install and administer a single ticketing system, fix, impose, and collect fines and penalties for all
36 kinds of violations of traffic rules and regulations. BLISTTDA shall enforce all traffic laws and
37 regulations in the BLISTT through its Traffic Operation Center;

1 (e) Enter into contract and own properties; receive funding, payments, grants, contributions
2 and donations; and sue and be sued in order to carry out its duties and functions as provided for
3 in this Act; and

4 (f) Perform other related functions required to achieve the objectives of BLISTTDA,
5 including the undertaking of delivery of basic services to the LGUs when deemed necessary
6 subject to prior coordination with and consent of the LGU concerned.

7 **SECTION 6.** *Functions of BLISTTDA Council.* – The Council shall perform the following
8 functions:

9 (a) Exercise the policy-making power of BLISTTDA;

10 (b) Approve plans, programs, and projects and issue rules and regulations deemed
11 necessary by BLISTTDA to carry out the purposes of this Act;

12 (c) Fix the compensation of the officers and personnel of BLISTTDA in accordance with
13 the Salary Standardization Law and approve the annual budget thereof for submission to the
14 Department of Budget and Management (DBM);

15 (d) Recommend investment programming for its plans and programs, as well as supervise
16 the implementation of plans and programs which includes the formulation and coordination of its
17 related activities;

18 (e) Set policies and standards, and promulgate rules and regulations governing the delivery
19 of basic services;

20 (f) Endorse the annual as well as the supplemental budgets of BLISSTDA; and

21 (g) Perform such other acts and assume such other functions as may be necessary to carry
22 out the provisions of this Act.

23 **SEC. 7.** *Functions of BLISTTDA Chairman.* –BLISTTDA Chairman shall:

24 (a) Appoint, subject to civil service laws, rules and regulations, all subordinate officers and
25 employees, who shall enjoy security of tenure and may be removed only for cause in accordance
26 with law. The Chairman is hereby authorized to engage the services of experts or consultants
27 either on full-time or part-time basis, as may be required in the performance of the Chairman's
28 duties and functions;

29 (b) Execute the policies and measures approved by the Council and be responsible for the
30 efficient and effective day-to-day management of the operations of BLISTTDA and exercise the
31 power to discipline subordinate officials and employees under the provisions of law;

32 (c) Subject to the guidelines and policies set by the Council, prepare and submit to the
33 Council, for its approval, the organizational structure and the staffing pattern, and fix the number
34 of subordinate officials and employees of BLISTTDA;

35 (d) Prepare the annual budget for the operations of BLISTTDA for submission to the
36 Council;

37 (e) Prepare an annual report on the accomplishments of BLISTTDA for submission to the
38 Council and to the President of the Philippines; and

1 (f) Perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the President of the Philippines
2 or by the Council.

3 **SECTION. 8.** *The General Manager and Senior Managers.* – The Chairman shall be
4 assisted by a General Manager, a Senior Manager for Planning, and a Senior Manager for
5 Finance and Administration, all of whom are appointees of the President of the Philippines,
6 subject to civil service laws, rules and regulations. They shall enjoy security of tenure unless
7 removed for cause in accordance with law.

8 The General Manager shall exercise the powers of a Senior Manager for Operations with
9 the following functions:

10 (a) Assist the Chairman in the administration of BLISTTDA and supervision of
11 subordinate personnel;

12 (b) Assist the Chairman in the supervision of operation centers and units of BLISTTDA;

13 (c) Assist the Chairman in the review of plans and programs for BLISTTDA and the
14 LGUs, and in the preparation of the annual report of the activities and accomplishments of the
15 BLISTTDA; and

16 (d) Perform such other duties and functions as may be lawfully delegated or assigned by
17 the Chairman.

18 The Senior Manager for Planning shall possess not less than five (5) years extensive
19 experience in development and planning or a Master's degree in Urban Planning or related
20 discipline.

21 **SECTION. 9.** *Institutional Linkages.* – BLISTTDA shall, in carrying out its functions,
22 consult, coordinate, and work closely with the LGUs, NEDA, and other national government
23 agencies mentioned in Section 4 hereof, and accredited people's organizations, nongovernmental
24 organizations, and the private sector operating in the component city and municipalities. The
25 Chairman or the authorized representative from among the Council members shall be *ex officio*
26 members of the boards of government corporations and committees of the departments of
27 government whose activities are relevant to the objectives and responsibilities of BLISTTDA.

28 BLISTTDA shall formulate a principal proposal to serve as the framework for the local
29 development plans of the component LGUs. BLISTTDA shall submit its development plans and
30 investments programs to the NEDA for integration into the Medium-Term Philippine
31 Development Plan (MTPDP) and public investment program.

32 BLISTTDA shall, in coordination with the NEDA and the Department of Finance (DOF),
33 interface with foreign assistance agencies for purposes of obtaining financial support, grants, and
34 donations in support of its programs and projects.

35 **SECTION. 10.** *Sources of Funds and the Operating Budget of BLISTTDA.* –

36 (a) The amount necessary for the operating budget of the BLISTTDA shall be included in
37 the annual General Appropriations Act.

1 (b) The BLISTTDA is empowered to levy fines and impose fees and charges for various
2 services rendered.

3 (c) The operations of the BLISTTDA shall likewise be supported through financial
4 contributions or technical assistance from member LGUs, nongovernment agencies (NGAs) and
5 government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and the private sector, and other local
6 and international organizations in the form of grants, donations, contributions, payments,
7 penalties, fees, and charges.

8 **SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.*** If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
9 unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force
10 and effect.

11 **SECTION. 12. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations, and
12 other parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or
13 modified accordingly.

14 **SECTION. 13. *Effectivity Clause*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
15 publication in The Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general
16 circulation.

Approved,