

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 1025

RECEIVED BY _____

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON TOURISM, PUBLIC SERVICES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RA 9593, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "TOURISM ACT OF 2009", WITH THE END GOALS OF ENSURING THE FAIR TREATMENT OF OUR LOCAL TOUR GUIDES AND THE STAFF AND PERSONNEL OF TOURISM ENTERPRISES AND THE CONTINUATION OF A VIBRANT AND THRIVING TOURISM IN THE COUNTRY

1 **WHEREAS**, Article 2, Section 4 of the Constitution states that it is "the prime
2 duty of the Government to serve and protect the people";
3

4 **WHEREAS**, Article 2, Section 5 of the Constitution further mandates that the
5 maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the
6 promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of
7 the blessings of democracy;
8

9 **WHEREAS**, just from January to June last year, the Department of Tourism
10 (DOT) reported that there were **3.7 million foreign visitors** that entered the
11 Philippines, said number is 10% more than what was recorded in the same period in
12 2017;
13

14 **WHEREAS**, in 2017, DOT revealed that **60 million Filipinos visit local or**
15 **domestic tourist destinations** every year;
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the Philippine Archipelago is blessed with more than 7,000 islands
18 that are home to countless tourist spots that cater to different types of people, diverse
19 interests and limitless adventures;
20

21 **WHEREAS**, domestic and foreign tourists could enjoy the rich history of
22 Corregidor Island and the majestic and sacred old sprawling churches scattered all
23 over the country; the Subterranean River National Park in Puerto Princesa, Palawan;
24 a World Heritage Site which is Vigan City itself in Ilocos Sur; the amazing beaches of
25 Cebu, Palawan, Tawi Tawi, Davao Region; the Hundred Islands National Park in
26 Alaminos, Pangasinan; Ditumabo Mother Falls in San Luis, Aurora near Baler and
27 Tangadan Falls in San Gabriel, La Union to name a few falls, delightful meal while

1 cruising Loboc River in the province of Bohol; the caves and hanging coffins in the
2 highlands of Sagada in Mountain Province, among others;

3
4 **WHEREAS**, families, *barkadas* and couples bond, enjoy, unwind and
5 strengthen their relationships in their journeys to and adventures in the countless
6 tourist destinations in the country – truly and proudly, one can take a deep breath and
7 tell himself/herself, "*Pilipinas, kay ganda mo*";

8
9 **WHEREAS**, amidst the euphoria brought about by our fantastic tourist spots,
10 we often forget and neglect the backbone of tourism – our kind, patient, lively and
11 accommodating tour guides, resorts' staff and personnel, and the like – they are locals,
12 the ones who do the hard work for tourists to have the times of their lives in our
13 beautiful country;

14
15 **WHEREAS**, under Section 6(L) of Republic Act (RA) No. 9593, otherwise
16 known as "The Tourism Act of 2009", one of the "powers and functions" of the DOT
17 is to "formulate and promulgate, in consultation with the LGUs, the private sector
18 industries and other tourism stakeholders, **rules and regulations governing the**
19 **operation and activities of all tourism enterprises, including but not limited**
20 **to a national standard for licensing, accreditation and classification of**
21 **tourism enterprises**, prescribing therein minimum levels of operating quality and
22 efficiency for their operation in accordance with recognized international standards,
23 impose reasonable penalties for violation of accreditation policies and recommend to
24 the LGUs concerned the suspension or prohibition of operation of a tourism
25 enterprise";

26
27 **WHEREAS**, any tourist notice would notice that some tourist destinations,
28 rightfully so, requires "entrance fee" or "environment fee" and a chat with local tour
29 guides would reveal that a portion of their fees would go to the LGU or their employer
30 where they work; on their part, our tour guides and resort staff and personnel are
31 regularly required to take seminars necessary for their respective accreditations and
32 licenses/certificates;

33
34 **WHEREAS**, our local tour guides and resort staff and personnel are obligated
35 to spend out of their own pockets for various fees to obtain or renew their licenses or
36 certificates or to continue their employment – they need to pay for them to serve
37 tourists and earn their living that would result to revenue or income for LGUs and
38 tourism enterprises;

39
40 **WHEREAS**, RA 9593 is a relatively young law and it must be reviewed and re-
41 assessed, including its implementation, not just to ensure a vibrant and thriving
42 tourism in the Philippines but to likewise ensure that our local tour guides and various
43 staff and personnel of tourism enterprises are not being prejudiced by numerous fees
44 and other reported wrongful practices in the workplace;

45
46 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate
47 of the Philippines, to urge the Senate Committees on Tourism, Public Services and
48 Local Government to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the status of the

1 implementation of RA 9593, otherwise known as the "Tourism Act of 2009", with the
2 end goals of ensuring the fair treatment of our local tour guides and the staff and
3 personnel of tourism enterprises and the continuation of a vibrant and thriving tourism
4 in the country;

5
6 *Adopted.*


GRACE POE