

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7657

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BY REPRESENTATIVES TUPAS, GORRICETA AND BARONDA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 491

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**AN ACT  
DECLARING THE ISLAS DE GIGANTES LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY  
OF CARLES, PROVINCE OF ILOILO, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1           **SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the “Islas de Gigantes Ecotourism Zone  
2 Act.”

3           **SEC. 2.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry  
4 that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally-sensitive, economically  
5 viable and equitably beneficial to local communities.

6           **SEC. 3.** The Islas de Gigantes, consisting of four (4) barangays, namely, Asluman,  
7 Granada, Lantangan and Gabi, all located in the Municipality of Carles, Province of Iloilo,  
8 is hereby declared an ecotourism zone, to be known as the “Islas de Gigantes Ecotourism  
9 Zone”. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT),  
10 subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.

11           Within six (6) months from the approval of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with  
12 the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Tourism Infrastructure  
13 and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and the municipal government of Carles, shall

1 prepare and jointly implement the development plan for Islas de Gigantes, and shall  
2 incorporate the same in the National Tourism Development Plan.

3 The DOT, in coordination with the DENR, the TIEZA, the municipal government of  
4 Carles and other concerned agencies of the government, shall delineate well-defined  
5 geographic areas within the Islas de Gigantes Ecotourism Zone and coordinate the  
6 integrated development of the area for the optimum use of natural assets and attractions.  
7 The development shall ensure the preservation of the flora and fauna and perpetuate the  
8 historic significance of the identified tourist attractions.

9 **SEC. 4.** The Secretaries of the DOT and DENR shall include in their respective  
10 Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be  
11 included in the annual General Appropriations Act and from internally generated funds of  
12 the DOT.

13 **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the  
14 DOT, in consultation with the DENR, the TIEZA and the municipal government of Carles,  
15 shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this  
16 Act.

17 **SEC. 6.** All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees and other issuances  
18 inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended  
19 accordingly.

20 **SEC. 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the  
21 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

22 Approved,