



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8960

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BY REPRESENTATIVES AMATONG, ARAGONES, BASCUG, UY (J.), VIOLAGO, GATO, CABREDO,  
CELESTE AND SAULOG, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 834

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AN ACT

DECLARING THE MURCIELAGOS ISLAND PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LABASON, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, 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.** The Murcielagos Island Protected Landscape and Seascape located  
2           in the Municipality of Labason, Province of Zamboanga Del Norte, is hereby declared an  
3           ecotourism zone. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of  
4           Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of  
5           ecotourism zones and the management of protected areas.
- 6           **Sec. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in  
7           coordination with the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), shall prepare a  
8           tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation and  
9           maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall enhance tourism in  
10          the area: *Provided,* That the development plan shall ensure the preservation and

1 conservation of the natural resources of the area and shall be consistent with the  
2 provisions of Republic Act No. 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System  
3 Act of 1992, as amended by Republic Act No. 11038.

4 **Sec. 3.** The DOT, in coordination with the municipal government of Labason and  
5 the local PAMB, shall take immediate steps to implement the tourism development plan  
6 that will suit the natural characteristics of the Murcielagos Island Protected Landscape  
7 and Seascape, and shall incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the  
8 ensuing calendar year.

9 **Sec. 4.** The DOT shall promote the Murcielagos Island Protected Landscape and  
10 Seascape as an ecotourism zone in all its national, regional and local promotion  
11 programs.

12 **Sec. 5.** The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the  
13 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General  
14 Appropriations Act, and shall augment such allocation with internally generated funds of  
15 the Department.

16 **Sec. 6.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the  
17 DOT, in coordination with the municipal government of Labason and the local PAMB,  
18 shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its proper implementation.

19 **Sec. 7.** All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, presidential decrees and  
20 other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed  
21 repealed or amended accordingly.

22 **Sec. 8.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the  
23 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

24 Approved,