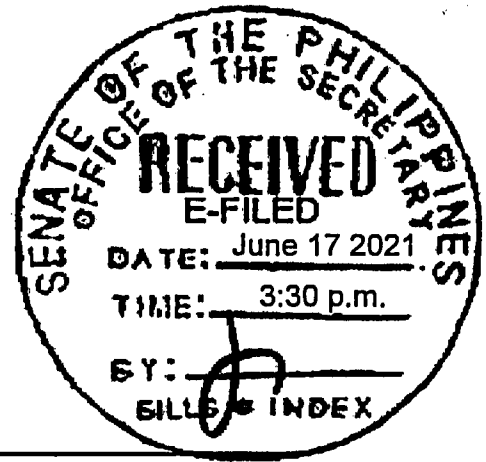


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )

SENATE  
S. B. No. 2296



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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**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**

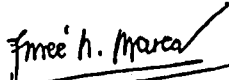
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XII, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "*The goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged. x x x*"

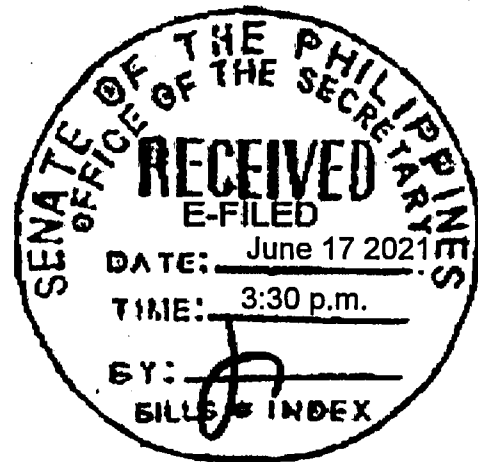
The City of Baguio and its nearby municipalities have a lot to offer in terms of economic development, agriculture, and tourism. However, as time has passed, environmental, tourist, transportation, water supply, waste management, and basic service provision issues have become more apparent. Hence, to promote sustainable development and effective delivery of basic services in Baguio City and its neighboring towns, the Baguio City, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba, and Tublay Development Authority (BLISTTDA) must be established, a government entity responsible for planning and implementing basic area-wide services while preserving the autonomy of the local government units.

This bill therefore seeks to create the Baguio City, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay Development Authority (BLISTTDA). This proposed measure aims to centralize and oversee development efforts and initiatives addressing the challenges and problems confronting the City of Baguio and neighboring municipalities. The principle of synergy would be emphasized through BLISTTDA when towns/cities in a contiguous area could achieve more by planning and implementing together. This will definitely pave the way for mutual support, cooperation through resource sharing, and active collaboration in the region.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure earnestly sought.

  
**IMEE R. MARCOS**

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

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

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

16           The BLISTTDA shall serve as the platform for the acceleration of the social,  
17 economic, and political developments in the area as a unified management unit by  
18 enabling the component LGUs to respond to common developmental challenges  
19 through unified, effective, and economically efficient programs and undertakings.

20           The BLISTTDA shall perform planning, monitoring, and coordinative functions.  
21 It shall exercise regulatory and supervisory authority over the delivery of area-wide  
22 services within the jurisdictions of the concerned city and municipalities without  
23 diminution of the autonomy of the LGUs concerning purely local matters.

24  
25           **SEC. 3. Scope of BLISTTDA Services.** – The BLISTTDA shall provide services  
26 that shall take into consideration the needs of the population within the territory of  
27 the local government units concerned. These services shall include the following:  
28

1 (a) *Development planning and Preparation of Medium and Long – Term*  
2 *Development Plans* – These shall cover evaluation and packaging of development  
3 projects; investments programming and coordination; and monitoring of program and  
4 project implementation;

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

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

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

23 (e) *Flood Control and Sewerage Management* – This shall cover formulation  
24 and implementation of policies, standards, programs, and projects for an integrated  
25 flood control and drainage system;

26 (f) *Water Resource Management System* – This shall cover formulation and  
27 implementation of policies, programs, and projects for a comprehensive water  
28 resource system which shall include the establishment and operation of water source  
29 development, treatment, distribution, and sewerage system facilities;

30 (g) *Health, Sanitation, and Pollution Control* – This shall cover formulation and  
31 implementation of policies, standards, and programs to safeguard public health and  
32 maintain sanitation. It shall ensure the promotion of ecological balance and the  
33 prevention and control of environmental pollution;

34 (h) *Public Safety and Order* – This shall cover formulation and implementation  
35 of programs, policies, and procedures to maintain public safety, including  
36 preparedness for preventive or rescue operations during times of calamities and  
37 disasters, including the implementation of contingency plans and mobilization of  
38 resources for relief operations in coordination with national agencies concerned; and

39 (i) *Tourism* – This shall cover formulation and implementation of policies,  
40 programs, and projects for the promotion of tourism in the entire BLISTT area. There  
41 shall be a Baguio, La Trinidad,  
42

43 **SEC. 4. BLISTTDA Council.** – There shall be a Baguio, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba,  
44 and Tublay (BLISTT) Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, which shall serve  
45 as the governing board and policy-making body of BLISTTDA. The Council shall be  
46 composed, in an ex officio capacity, of the Governor of the Province of Benguet, the  
47 Representatives of Baguio and Benguet, and the mayors of the City of Baguio and the

1 municipalities of La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba, and Tublay, as regular members.  
2 The duly authorized representatives of the National Economic and Development  
3 Authority (NEDA), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Public Works  
4 and Highways (DPWH), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Information  
5 and Communications Technology (DICT), Department of Budget and Management  
6 (DBM), Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), National  
7 Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI),  
8 Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
9 (DENR), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Commission on Higher  
10 Education (CHED), Philippine National Police (PNP) and two (2) representatives of the  
11 private sector, who shall be appointed by the Council, shall attend meetings of the  
12 Council as non-voting members.

13 The Council shall be headed by a Chairman, to be elected from among the  
14 regular members, who shall preside over the meetings of the Council.

15 In addition to the Council members, there shall be an Administrator who shall  
16 serve for a term of six (6) years, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines  
17 from a list of nominees submitted by the Council, and shall continue to hold office at  
18 the discretion of the appointing authority.

19 The Administrator shall be vested with rank, rights, privileges, disqualifications,  
20 and prohibitions of a cabinet member. The Administrator shall act as the Chief  
21 Executive Officer of the BLISTTDA. The Administrator and the members of the Council,  
22 except ex officio members, are entitled to allowances and per diems in accordance  
23 with existing policies, rules, and regulations on the matter.

24  
25 **SEC. 5. Powers and Functions of the BLISTTDA.** – The BLISTTDA shall exercise  
26 the following powers and functions:

27 (a) Formulate, coordinate, and regulate the implementation of medium- and  
28 long-term plans and programs for the delivery of services, land use, and physical  
29 development within BLISTT, consistent with national development objectives and  
30 priorities. The medium-term investment programs for BLISTT-wide services shall  
31 indicate sources and allocation of funds for priority programs and projects;

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

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

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

45 (e) Enter into contract and own properties; receive funding, payments, grants,  
46 contributions, and donations;

1 (f) Sue and be sued in order to carry out its duties and functions as provided  
2 for in this Act; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25  
26 **SEC. 7. Functions of the BLISTTDA Administrator.** – The BLISTTDA  
27 Administrator shall:

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

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

37 (c) Subject to the guidelines and policies set by the Council, prepare and  
38 submit to the Council, for its approval, the organizational structure and the staffing  
39 pattern, and fix the number of subordinate officials and employees of the BLISTTDA  
40 in accordance with Civil Service laws, rules and regulations and evaluation and  
41 approval of the Department of Budget and Management;

42 (d) Prepare the annual budget for the operations of the BLISTTDA for  
43 submission to the Council;

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

3 (f) Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President of the  
4 Philippines or by the Council.

5  
6 **SEC. 8. *The Senior Managers.*** – The Administrator shall be assisted by a Senior  
7 Manager for Operations, a Senior Manager for Planning, and a Senior Manager for  
8 Finance and Administration, all of whom are appointees of the President of the  
9 Philippines, as recommended by the Administrator and Council, subject to civil service  
10 laws, rules and regulations. They shall enjoy security of tenure unless removed for  
11 cause in accordance with law.

12  
13 A. The Senior Manager for Operations shall have the following functions:

- 14 1. Assist the Administrator in the administration of the BLISTTDA and  
15 supervision of subordinate personnel;
- 16 2. Assist the Administrator in the supervision of operation centers and units  
17 of the BLISTTDA;
- 18 3. Assist the Administrator in the review of plans and programs for the  
19 BLISTTDA and the LGUs, and in the preparation of the annual report of  
20 the activities and accomplishments of the BLISTTDA; and
- 21 4. Perform such other duties and functions as may be lawfully delegated or  
22 assigned by the Administrator from time to time.

23 B. The Senior Manager for Planning shall possess not less than five (5) years  
24 extensive experience in development and planning or a Master's degree in Urban  
25 Planning or related discipline and shall have the following functions:

- 26 1. Provide technical assistance to the Administrator;
- 27 2. Assist in the crafting and formulation of medium- and long- term  
28 development plan; and
- 29 3. Perform other functions as delegated by the Administrator.

30  
31 C. The Senior Manager for Finance and Administration shall perform the  
32 following functions:

- 33 1. Assist in the preparation of the BLISTTDA annual budget;
- 34 2. Assist in the preparation of medium- and long-term investment program  
35 for the delivery of social services;
- 36 3. Assist in the preparation of budgetary expenditure and sources of  
37 financing program for the operation of BLISTTDA; and
- 38 4. Perform other functions as may be delegated by the Administrator.

39  
40 **SEC. 9. *Institutional Linkages.*** – The BLISTTDA shall, in carrying out its  
41 functions, consult, coordinate, and work closely with the public and private institutions,  
42 accredited people's organizations and nongovernmental organizations operating in the  
43 BLISTT area.

44 The BLISTTDA shall formulate a master plan to serve as the framework for the  
45 development of the BLISTT area. It shall submit its development plans and investment

1 programs to the NEDA for integration into the Medium-Term Philippine Development  
2 Plan (MTPDP) and public investment program.

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

6  
7 **SEC. 10. Sources of Funds and the Operating Budget of the BLISTTDA. –**

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

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

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

17 In case of grants, in-cash or in-kind, from foreign governments or their agencies  
18 and instrumentalities, or multilateral institutions or organizations, acceptance thereof  
19 shall be subject to prior clearance and approval of the Council and the President of  
20 the Philippines or the authorized representative, based on the recommendation of the  
21 Secretary of Finance. In case of donations, in-cash or in-kind, from foreign  
22 governments, acceptance thereof shall require prior clearance and approval by the  
23 Council and the President of the Philippines or the authorized representative based on  
24 the recommendation of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

25  
26 **SEC.11. Inclusion in the BLISTTDA. –** Adjoining LGUs that opt to be included  
27 in the BLISTTDA shall be allowed; *Provided*, That a Sanggunian resolution for the  
28 purpose has been passed and duly approved: *Provided, further*, That there shall be a  
29 concurrence from the BLISTTDA Council.

30  
31 **SEC. 12. Separability Clause. –** If any part or provision of this Act is held  
32 unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected shall  
33 continue to remain in full force and effect.

34  
35 **SEC. 13. Repealing Clause. –** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and  
36 regulations, or parts or provisions thereof which are not consistent with this Act are  
37 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

38  
39 **SEC. 14. Effectivity. –** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
40 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*