

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
Third Regular Session

24 JUN 24 P12:37

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

S.B. No. 2714

Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF DOÑA REMEDIOS TRINIDAD,
PROVINCE OF BULACAN, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The municipality of Doña Remedios Trinidad was created on September 13, 1977 by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 1196 in honor of the late mother of then First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, who was a pure Bulakeña.¹ The town, more popularly known as "DRT," is the largest municipality in the Province of Bulacan with a total land area of 93,296 hectares, occupying almost one-third of the province.

DRT hosts a combination of man-made landmarks, resort getaways and natural wonders, such as the Puning Cave in Brgy. Bayabas, Secret Falls in Brgy. Camachile, Candle Monument in Brgy. Camachin, Tila-Pilon Hills in Brgy. Kalawakan, Verdivia Falls in Brgy. Talbak, and the Caribbean Waves Resort in Brgy. Pulong Sampaloc. In 2020, over 40 potential tourist destinations were identified in DRT.²

¹ Doña Remedios Trinidad Profile. Bulacan.gov.ph. Available at <https://bulacan.gov.ph/cities-and-municipalities/dona-remedios-trinidad>. Date last accessed: 16 April 2024.

² Meet the tourism hero of Doña Remedios Trinidad. GMA News. 26 December 2020. Available at: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/entertainment/celebritylife/travel/71723/meet-the-tourism-hero-of-dona-remedios-trinidad/story>. Date last accessed: 19 June 2024.

Tourism is a major driver of economic growth and employment in the country. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA),³ the contribution of the sector to the country's GDP in 2023 was estimated at 8.6%. In addition, the sector generated a total of 6.2 million jobs in 2023.

Thus, developing Doña Remedios Trinidad into an ecotourism zone will not only boost the country's GDP but also generate more employment, especially for locals in the area.

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



JOEL VILLANUEVA

³ Tourism Posted Highest Growth in 2023, Contributing 8.6 % to the Economy. PSA. 18 June 2024. Available at: <https://www.psa.gov.ph/statistics/tourism>. Date last accessed: 19 June 2024

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

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration as Ecotourism Zone.** – The Municipality of Doña
2 Remedios Trinidad, Province of Bulacan is hereby declared an ecotourism zone.
3 Pursuant thereto, the Department of Tourism (DOT) shall support and prioritize the
4 development of the area subject to the rules and regulations governing the
5 development of ecotourism zones.
6

7 **SEC. 2. Tourism Development Plan.** – Within one (1) year after the approval
8 of this Act, the municipal government of Doña Remedios Trinidad shall, in coordination
9 with the DOT, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other
10 concerned government agencies, prepare a tourism development plan which shall
11 include the construction, installation and maintenance of appropriate infrastructure
12 and facilities to enhance tourism in the area: *Provided*, That said development plan
13 shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of
14 the area; *Provided further*, That the implementation of the tourism development plan
15 shall be included in the annual budget of the municipal government of Doña Remedios
16 Trinidad.
17

18 **SEC. 3. Assistance to the Local Government Unit.** – The DOT shall provide
19 technical assistance in tourism capacity building to the municipal government of Doña
20 Remedios Trinidad for the proper implementation of the tourism development plan.
21 The DOT shall also include the Municipality of Doña Remedios Trinidad in its national
22 and regional promotion programs.
23
24
25

1 **SEC. 4. Funding.** – The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be
2 included in the annual budget of the municipal government of Doña Remedios Trinidad.
3 The DOT may augment such allocation with internally-generated funds.
4

5 **SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days from
6 the effectivity of this Act, the municipal government of Doña Remedios Trinidad shall,
7 in consultation with the DOT, DENR and other concerned government agencies,
8 promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.
9

10 **SEC. 6. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act shall be declared
11 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full
12 force and effect.
13

14 **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders,
15 proclamations, presidential decrees, and other issuances inconsistent with any of the
16 provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.
17

18 **SEC. 8. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
19 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.
20

21 Approved,