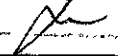


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC }  
OF THE PHILIPPINES }  
Third Regular Session }

7 JAN 30 2007

SENATE

RECEIVED BY 

---

**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 234**

Submitted by the Committee on Tourism on JAN 30 2007.

Re : House Bill No. 786

Recommending its approval with amendments.

Sponsor : Senator Gordon.

---

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The Committee on Tourism to which was referred House Bill No. 786, introduced by Representative Abayon, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
DECLARING THE ISLAND-TOWNS OF BIRI, CAPUL, SAN ANTONIO AND SAN VICENTE, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR AS ECO-TOURISM ZONES"**

has considered the same and has the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that it be approved with the following amendments:

1. On page 1, delete lines 1 to 5, and in lieu thereof, insert a new Section 1 which shall read as follows:

**"SECTION 1. THIS ACT HEREBY DECLARES THE ISLAND-TOWNS OF BIRI, CAPUL, SAN ANTONIO AND SAN VICENTE IN THE PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR AS NATIONAL TOURISM ZONE.";**

2. Delete the entire Section 2, from page 1, line 6 up to page 2, line 5 and in lieu thereof, insert a new Section 2 which shall read as follows:

**"SEC. 2. UNTIL COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATION RATIONALIZING THE NATIONAL TOURISM PROGRAM IS ADOPTED, THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES SHALL GOVERN THE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, PROMOTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THIS TOURISM ZONE:**

A) THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM (DOT) AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES, AND THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN SAMAR SHALL COORDINATE IN THE FORMULATION OF A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE TOURISM ZONE: *PROVIDED*, THAT SAID PLAN IS CONSISTENT WITH, OR MAY BE INTEGRATED INTO, THE NATIONAL TOURISM MASTER PLAN OF THE DOT.

B) THE PLAN SHALL PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE NATURAL FEATURES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE TOURISM ZONE, WHILE PROVIDING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

C) THE RELEVANT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHALL UTILIZE ITS POWERS PROVIDED UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE TO IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE THE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

D) THE DOT AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES MAY PROVIDE NECESSARY TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHILE ENDEAVORING, WHEN PRACTICABLE, TO PROMOTE THE TOURISM ZONES BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

E) THE DOT AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHALL CREATE A FORUM BY WHICH THE PRIVATE SECTOR, NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER INTEREST GROUPS, CAN INTERACT WITH ONE ANOTHER AND THE GOVERNMENT TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE THAT SHALL ENCOURAGE INVESTMENT, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CULTURE OF TOURISM.”;

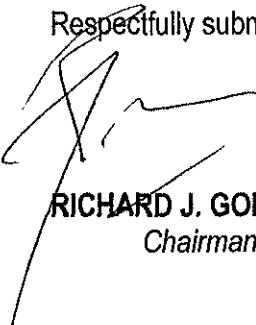
F) THE LAND EMBRACED BY THE TOURISM ZONE SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM THE COVERAGE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM, AND SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE CONCERNED SANGGUNIAN.

3. On page 2, delete Section 3 and renumber the succeeding sections accordingly;
4. On the same page, delete the entire Section 4 and Section 5 and in lieu thereof insert a new sections which shall read as follows:

“**SEC. 3.** THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONCERNED, SHALL ADOPT APPROPRIATE RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS TO IMPLEMENT THIS ACT.”; and

“**SEC. 4.** THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT AFTER FIFTEEN (15) DAYS OF COMPLETION OF ITS PUBLICATION.”


Respectfully submitted:



**RICHARD J. GORDON**  
*Chairman*


  
RAMON BONGS REVILLA JR.  
Vice Chairman

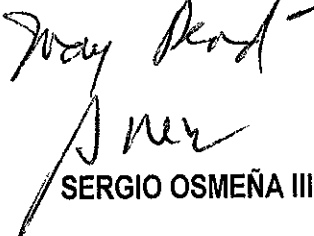
Members:

*may amend*  
  
COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO

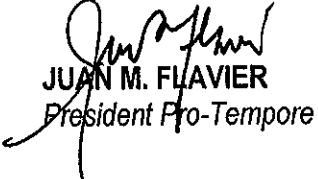
  
MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID


*may amend*  
  
LUISA "LOI" PUJERCITO ESTRADA

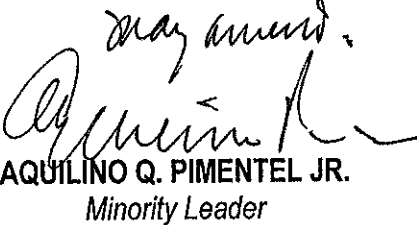
*may amend*  
  
M.A. MADRIGAL

*may amend*  
  
SERGIO OSMEÑA III

Ex-Officio Members:

  
JUAN M. FLAVIER  
President Pro-Tempore

  
FRANCIS N. RANGILINAN  
Majority Leader

*may amend*  
  
AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR.  
Minority Leader

Hon. MANNY VILLAR  
President  
Senate of the Philippines  
Pasay City



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 786

---

BY REPRESENTATIVE ABAYON

---

AN ACT DECLARING THE ISLAND-TOWNS OF BIRI, CAPUL, SAN ANTONIO AND SAN VICENTE, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR AS ECO-TOURISM ZONES

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

1           SECTION 1. The Island-towns of Biri, Capul, San Antonio and San  
2 Vicente, all in the Province of Northern Samar, are hereby declared as eco-  
3 tourism zones. As such, these shall be accorded priority development by the  
4 Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations  
5 governing the development of tourism zones.

6           SEC. 2. The DOT, in coordination with the Philippine Tourism  
7 Authority and other concerned agencies of the government, shall, within one  
8 year from the approval of this Act, prepare a development plan involving the  
9 construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and

1 infrastructure as shall enhance tourism in the area: *Provided*, That said  
2 development plan shall ensure the preservation of the natural resources and  
3 historical significance of the area: *Provided, further*, That the lands embraced  
4 therein shall be exempt from the coverage of the Comprehensive Agrarian  
5 Reform Program, as shall be determined by the concerned sanggunian.

6 SEC. 3. The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement said  
7 development plan and shall incorporate the same in its overall development  
8 program for the ensuing calendar year.

9 SEC. 4. The DOT shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations  
10 for the proper implementation of this Act.

11 SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
12 in two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,