



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**H. No. 10617**

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BY REPRESENTATIVES GORRICETA, ARAGONES, BASCUG, VIOLAGO, GATO, GO (M.), MATUGAS, FARIÑAS (R.C.), EBCAS, BAÑAS-NOGRALES, DAGOOC, SAULOG, GUYA, SAVELLANO, ALBANO (A.), BARBA, DY (F.), FRASCO, LOYOLA, SILVERIO AND ELAGO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1380

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**AN ACT**  
**DECLARING AN AREA SITUATED WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LEON AND ALIMODIAN IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOILO, LOCALLY REFERRED TO AS THE BUCARI AREA, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE, ESTABLISHING THE BUCARI ECOTOURISM COUNCIL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1           **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Bucari Ecotourism Zone  
2 Act”.

3           **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect  
4 the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology and to promote a viable and  
5 sustainable ecotourism industry in order to attract local and foreign tourists that will generate  
6 employment and investment opportunities for local communities while ensuring  
7 environmental protection and preservation of the area.

8           Pursuant thereto, fourteen (14) barangays in the Municipality of Leon and seven (7)  
9 adjoining barangays in the Municipality of Alimodian, collectively referred to in the Province

1 of Iloilo as the Bucari area, is hereby declared an ecotourism zone.

2       **SEC. 3. *Bucari Ecotourism Zone.*** – The Bucari Ecotourism Zone shall consist of  
3 fourteen (14) barangays in the Municipality of Leon, namely: Bobon, Bucari, Bulwang,  
4 Camandag, Cabunga-an, Caboloan, Bacolod, Lampaya, Maliao, Danao, Cagay, Inggay,  
5 Tagsing and Igcadios; and seven (7) barangays in the Municipality of Alimodian, namely:  
6 Uminggan, Lico, Dao, Cabacanan Rizal, Cabacanan Proper, Manasa and Tabug, all in the  
7 Province of Iloilo. The development of the Bucari Ecotourism Zone shall be prioritized by  
8 the government.

9       **SEC. 4. *Bucari Tourism Development Plan.*** – Within one (1) year from the approval  
10 of this Act, the DOT shall, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural  
11 Resources (DENR), the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), the  
12 municipal governments of Leon and Alimodian and concerned agencies of the government,  
13 prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation and  
14 maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure to enhance tourism in the area:  
15 *Provided, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the*  
16 *natural beauty and resources in the area.*

17       The tourism development plan shall be incorporated in the overall National Tourism  
18 Development Plan of the Department of Tourism (DOT) pursuant to Republic Act No. 9593,  
19 otherwise known as “The Tourism Act of 2009,” and shall be jointly implemented by the  
20 municipal governments of Leon and Alimodian, the Bucari Ecotourism Council, and the  
21 TIEZA.

22       The DENR shall, in coordination with the TIEZA and the municipal governments of  
23 Leon and Alimodian, delineate well-defined geographic areas within the Bucari Ecotourism  
24 Zone and coordinate the integrated development of the area for the optimal use of its natural  
25 assets and attractions.

1           **SEC. 5. Bucari Ecotourism Council.** – The Bucari Ecotourism Council, hereinafter  
2 referred to as the Council, is hereby created, which shall act as the policy-making, planning,  
3 coordinating and implementing body in the development of the Bucari Ecotourism Zone. It  
4 shall be composed of eleven (11) members, as follows:

5           (a) *Ex Officio* Members

- 6           (1) Provincial Governor of the Province of Iloilo, or a duly authorized representative,  
7                 as Chairperson;
- 8           (2) Representative of the Second District of the Province of Iloilo, or a duly  
9                 authorized representative, as Co-Chairperson;
- 10          (3) Regional Director of DOT-Region VI, as Vice Chairperson;
- 11          (4) Regional Director of DENR-Region VI, as Co-Vice Chairperson;
- 12          (5) Mayor of the Municipality of Leon, or a duly authorized representative;
- 13          (6) Mayor of the Municipality of Alimodian, or a duly authorized representative; and
- 14          (7) Barangay Chairperson of Barangay Bucari, or a duly authorized representative.

15          (b) Members Who Shall Represent Sectoral Concerns

- 16          (1) One (1) representative from either non-government organization (NGO) or  
17                 people's organization (PO), who is engaged in ecotourism, duly accredited both by  
18                 the DENR and the provincial government of Iloilo;
- 19          (2) One (1) representative from an academic institution, preferably from a university  
20                 or college in the Province of Iloilo, with proven track record in or related to  
21                 ecotourism;
- 22          (3) One (1) representative from the business sector, preferably a resident of the  
23                 Province of Iloilo; and
- 24          (4) One(1)representative from the private sector, preferably a resident of the Province  
25                 of Iloilo, who is distinguished in a profession or field of interest relevant to

1 ecotourism.

2 The *ex officio* elective members of the Council shall serve for the duration of their  
3 respective terms of office to which they are elected.

4 The *ex officio* appointive members of the Council shall serve for the duration of the  
5 period they hold the office to which they are appointed.

6 The sectoral members of the Council shall be selected by the *ex officio* members in a  
7 fair and transparent manner. They shall each serve a term of three (3) years and may be  
8 reappointed for another term. The acts and decision of the sectoral members shall be binding  
9 upon their respective sectors.

10 The members of the Council shall serve without compensation, but shall be  
11 authorized to actual and necessary travelling and subsistence expenses incurred in the  
12 performance of their duties, either in their attendance in meetings of the Council or in  
13 connection with other official business authorized by a resolution of the Council, subject to  
14 existing rules and regulations.

15 The municipal governments of Leon and Alimodian shall provide a Secretariat for the  
16 Council including the funding necessary to cover the expenses for the performance of its  
17 official functions and activities.

18 **SEC. 6. Powers and Functions of the Council.** – The Council shall exercise the  
19 following powers and functions:

- 20 (a) Appoint an Administrator;
- 21 (b) Adopt, and from time to time update the Bucari Tourism Development Plan;
- 22 (c) Supervise the implementation of the plans, programs and activities in the Bucari  
23 Ecotourism Zone;
- 24 (d) Assess and evaluate the potential impact of development plans and activities to the  
25 environmental safety and well-being of the Bucari Ecotourism Zone;

1 (e) Conduct consultations with the local residents of the Bucari Ecotourism Zone who  
2 will be affected by ecotourism development to integrate their cultural values and  
3 beliefs in the development plan and other programs;

4 (f) Provide technical and financial assistance to communities in the Bucari  
5 Ecotourism Zone; and

6 (g) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of  
7 this Act.

8 **SEC. 7. *Bucari Ecotourism Zone Administrator.*** – The Council shall appoint an  
9 Administrator who shall serve as its executive officer in exercising its powers and functions  
10 and in implementing the plans, programs and projects approved by the Council pursuant to  
11 the objectives of this Act.

12 **SEC. 8. *Appropriations.*** – The Secretaries of DOT and DENR shall include in their  
13 respective programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in  
14 the annual General Appropriations Act, and shall augment such allocation with internally  
15 generated funds of the DOT.

16 **SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the  
17 effectivity of this Act, the DOT shall, in consultation with the DENR and the municipal  
18 governments of Leon and Alimodian, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the  
19 proper implementation of this Act.

20 **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees and  
21 other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed  
22 repealed or amended accordingly.

23 **SEC. 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
24 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,