



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5955

BY REPRESENTATIVES VELASCO, MADRONA, CHATTO, ANGARA, ALVAREZ (J.), LUISTRO, RILLO, CHAN, AGARAO, ALMARIO, AUMENTADO, MATUGAS, SINGSON (R.), EMANO, GARCIA (M.A.), SALI, HORIBATA, ZAMORA (M.C.), DELOS SANTOS, ABUNDA, LAGON (D.), MANQUIZ, OUANO-DIZON, TUTOR, GO (E.C.), BUHAIN, CAGAS, TUPAS, GO (M.), GORRICETA, DALOG, YU (J.V.), CRUZ (R.), GATO, LIMKAICHONG, ESCUDERO, CARI, YU (D.G.), SALVAME, SACDALAN, KHO (R.), LEGARDA, GULLAS, MIGUEL, ALONTE, PLEYTO, GUTIERREZ, MAGSINO, PADIERNOS, GONZALES (A.), FRASCO, HERRERA, ALBANO, BASCUG, CABREDO, CHUNGALAO, COLLANTES, CUARESMA, KHO (O.), LOYOLA, MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, NAVA, OLIVAREZ, PLAZA, RODRIGUEZ (R.), SILVERIO AND SUANSING (M.A.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT No. 143

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA CRUZ, PROVINCE OF
MARINDUQUE, A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA**

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

- 1 **SECTION 1. *Municipality of Santa Cruz as Tourism Development Area.*** – The
- 2 Municipality of Santa Cruz, Province of Marinduque, is hereby declared a tourism
- 3 development area (TDA). The following areas within the municipality which are endowed
- 4 with scenic natural resources and historical significance shall be included in the Santa Cruz
- 5 TDA and shall be developed as tourism destinations:

- 1 (a) Islands of Maniwaya, Mongpong and Polo;
- 2 (b) Bagumbungan Cave;
- 3 (c) Busay Falls in Barangay Pag-asa;
- 4 (d) Kawa-kawa Falls in Barangay Bangcuangan; and
- 5 (e) Immediate environs of the Santa Cruz Church.

6 Pursuant thereto, the development of these areas shall be prioritized and supported by
7 the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the
8 development of tourism destinations.

9 **SEC. 2. *Tourism Development Plan.*** – Within one (1) year after the approval of this
10 Act, the municipal government of Santa Cruz shall, in coordination with the DOT, Department
11 of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Representative of the Lone District of
12 Marinduque and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan
13 that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate
14 infrastructure and facilities to enhance tourism in the Municipality of Santa Cruz, particularly
15 in identified areas for tourism development: *Provided,* That said development plan shall ensure
16 the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the areas: *Provided,*
17 *further,* That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the
18 budget of the municipal government of Santa Cruz.

19 **SEC. 3. *Santa Cruz Tourism Governing Board.*** – The Santa Cruz Tourism Governing
20 Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, is hereby created. It shall be composed of the
21 following members:

- 22 (a) Mayor of the Municipality of Santa Cruz, as ex-officio Chairperson;
- 23 (b) Secretary of the DOT, or a duly authorized representative;
- 24 (c) Secretary of the DENR, or a duly-authorized representative;

1 (d) Representative of the Lone District of Marinduque, or a duly authorized
2 representative;

3 (e) Representative from an accredited non-governmental organization whose advocacy
4 is environmental preservation;

5 (f) Representative from the academe; and

6 (g) Representative from the business sector.

7 The Board shall, in coordination with the DOT and concerned agencies of the
8 government, promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act; and shall, whenever
9 necessary, amend, modify or revise such rules and regulations to meet existing needs.

10 The municipal government of Santa Cruz shall provide a Secretariat for the Board
11 including the funding necessary to cover expenses for the performance of its official functions
12 and activities.

13 **SEC. 4. *Role of the DOT.*** – The DOT shall assist the municipal government of Santa
14 Cruz in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance
15 in tourism capacity building. It shall also include the Municipality of Santa Cruz in its national
16 and regional promotion programs.

17 **SEC. 5. *Appropriations.*** – The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be
18 included in the annual budget of the municipal government of Santa Cruz. The DOT may
19 augment such allocation with internally-generated funds.

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

23 **SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees and other
24 issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or
25 amended accordingly.

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

Approved,