

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 283



INTRODUCED BY REP. MAXIMO B. DALOG

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines boasts of its beautiful and various tourism destinations ranging from heavenly beaches to majestic mountains, waterfalls, lakes, caves and man-made attractions like the different rice terraces in the Northern part of the country. These tourism destinations have in fact attracted around 1.602 million visitors for the first quarter of this year alone¹.

However, despite the number of known tourist destinations, there are a lot of tourism potentials in the country that have yet to be developed, discovered and more importantly preserved. One of these lesser known tourism potentials in the Philippines is the municipality of Barlig in Mountain Province. Barlig, Mountain Province is home to the tenth highest mountain in the Philippines, Mount Amuyao frequented by adventurous local mountaineers for its thick mossy forest cover and abundance of flora and fauna. It is also where the famous Philippine Eagle was sighted in the late 1990s. In addition, Barlig offers varied tourist spots from cascading waterfalls, cool pristine lakes, hot springs, wonderful rock formations, majestic mountain ranges, beautiful rice terraces, burial caves, unique cultural patterns that is showcased during the three festivals in the municipality and the most sought after cool temperature during summer which give an unforgettable and distinctive experience to those who both love nature and culture.

Considering that tourism is a fast-growing industry in the Philippines, there is therefore a need in developing tourism potentials like the municipality of Barlig, Mountain Province.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly urged.


MAXIMO B. DALOG

¹Industry Performance for Travel and Tourism/March 2016. *Visitor Arrivals*. Internet. Available URL: <http://www.tourism.gov.ph/pages/industryperformance.aspx>. Junen 6, 2016.

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AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF BARLIG IN MOUNTAIN PROVINCE AS A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA (TDA) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as “An Act Declaring the Municipality of Barlig in Mountain Province as a Tourism Development Area (TDA).”

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable, and equitable local communities. In so doing, the State shall ensure the full implementation of this Act, support the establishment of Tourism Enterprise Zones (TEZ) and the mobilization of resources for the institutional mechanisms herein established to attract and focus investment on specific geographic areas within the TDA.

Sec. 3. Scope and Coverage. The Tourism Development Areas in Barlig, Mountain Province hereby include, but not limited to, the following barangays endowed with natural beauty, rivers, lakes, hot springs and mountain resources, and historical and cultural significance:

The majestic Mount Amuyao and the natural mountain range of Kadaclan in the Municipality of Barlig;

The Barlig Rice Terraces in the barangays of Gawana, Fiangtin, Macalana and Latang;

The Kadaclan Rice Terraces in the barangays Lunas, Chupac, Kaleo and Ogo-og;

The Lias Rice Terraces and Challos Falls in the barangays of Lias Silangan and Lias Kanluran;

The Barangay of Lingoy in the Municipality of Barlig with the natural beauty of the Topnew and Lingoy Hot Springs and the enchanting view of Lake Tufob;

The Barangay of Latang with the relaxing feel of the Murnang Hot Spring, the beautiful pristine waters of Mornang and Allob Falls, the mysterious enchanting beauty of Siblaw Taraw Lake and the Wonderful Rock;

The Barangay of Lunas in the Municipality of Barlig with the huge Lettang Burial Caves and the Lettang, Moyopoyop and Patyayan Falls;

The beautiful cascades of cool pristine waters of Or-or Falls in the Barangay of Kaleo, Amfitayok in the Barangay of Ogo-og and the Tokchag Falls in the Barangay of Gawana;

The unique Lusong Fukian Kan Wikian Rock Formation in the Barangay of Fiangtin; and

The Pangngor Chin Stone and Tomallan Waterfalls in the Barangay of Macalana.

As such, it shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing tourism.

Sec. 4. *Tourism Development Plan of Barlig.* – The Tourism Development Plan of the Municipality of Barlig shall be incorporated in the DOT's overall National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP) pursuant to Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as the "National Tourism Act of 2009" and be jointly implemented with the local government and the Provincial Tourism Council of Mountain Province taking into consideration Republic Act No. 7586, otherwise known as the "National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992" and its implementing rules and regulations.

The DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and other concerned agencies of the government, shall delineate well defined geographic areas within the TDA and coordinate the integrated development of these areas for the optimum use of natural assets and attractions, as well as existing facilities.

Sec. 5. *Barlig Tourism Development Trust Fund.* – There is hereby established a trust fund under this Act to be known as the Barlig Tourism Development Trust Fund for purposes of financing projects which shall enhance tourism in the Municipality of Barlig. The Trust Fund shall be administered by a Trust Fund Administrator under the Municipal Tourism

Council of Barlig. Income shall be derived from fees from visitors/tourists, other resources from the province, proceeds from the registration and lease of multiple-use areas, including tourism concessions, fees, proceeds and contributions from industries and facilities directly benefiting the municipality.

The Barlig Tourism Development Trust Fund may be augmented by grants and donations, endowment from various sources, domestic or foreign entities and individuals, for purposes related to their functions; *Provided*, That disbursements therefrom shall be in accordance with existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations: *Provided, further*, That the Fund shall not be used to cover personal services and expenditures.

Sec. 6. Appropriations. – The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and/or internally generated funds of the DOT.

Sec. 7. Separability Clause. – Any provision of this Act or part hereof that may be declared unconstitutional shall not affect the effectivity of the other provisions.

Sec. 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations and other issuances contrary to or inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 9. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,