

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1090

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**RECEIVED**

DATE: 05 JUL 2016

TIME: 11:52 am

BY: [Signature]

REGISTRATION UNIT  
BILLS AND INVESTMENT

---

**Introduced by HONORABLE SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.**

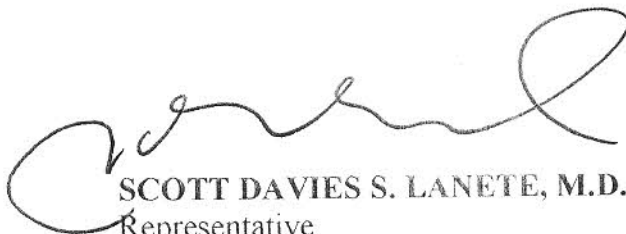
---

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Unknown to many but are exponentially gaining attention, the Island of Nagarao and its surrounding islands are full of tourist and economic potential. Situated at the developing municipality of Placer in the Province of Masbate, the Island of Nagarao and its surrounding islands are naturally gifted with pristine white sand beaches, virgin coral reefs filled with colorful fauna and flora, wide-ranging sand bars, and most of all, extremely warm-welcoming people.

Despite these natural treasures, the Island of Nagarao and its surrounding islands remain undiscovered and undeveloped. The lack of progress in the area can be traced to non-existent attention coming from the national government. Worse, the area has and continues to fall prey to unscrupulous entities engaged in illegal fishing thereby causing massive and irreversible destruction to the area.

Considering that it is a policy of the State to undertake the sustainable development of the environment simultaneously with the right of the people to a healthy and balanced ecology, it is imperative that the national government provide the needed care and attention to the Island of Nagarao and its surrounding islands. In order to achieve these goals, the Island of Nagarao and its surrounding islands should be declared as an ecotourism zone wherein an ecotourism council will be established to steer the area to fame and progress while maintaining the sanctity of its natural resources. Hence, the passage of this bill is urgently sought.



**SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.**  
Representative  
Third District, Province of Masbate

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1090

---

**Introduced by HONORABLE SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.**

---

**AN ACT DECLARING THE ISLAND OF NAGARAO AND ITS SURROUNDING ISLANDS OF NABOCTOT AND GUIN-AWAYAN IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PLACER, PROVINCE OF MASBATE, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE, ESTABLISHING THE PLACER ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology through the promotion of activities designed for environmental protection and conservation.

SECTION 2. The Island of Nagarao and its surrounding islands of Naboctot and Guin-awayan located in the Municipality of Placer, Province of Masbate are hereby declared an ecotourism zone.

SECTION 3. There shall be created the Placer Ecotourism Development Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, to be composed of the following:

- a) The Mayor of the Municipality of Placer, as Chairperson;
- b) A member of an accredited non-government organization or people's organization of the Municipality engaged in ecotourism, as Co-Chairperson;
- c) A representative from the Department of Tourism (DOT) or the Provincial Tourism Office;
- d) A representative from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
- e) A member of a recognized indigenous people's federation;
- f) A member of a reputable travel organization; and
- g) A member of the academe.

Placer's local legislative body shall appoint the members of the Council for a term of five (5) years, renewable for one term.

The DOT and the DENR shall assist the Council in its task of pursuing the objectives of this Act.

SECTION 4. The Council shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

- a. Adopt and update an Ecotourism Master plan and supervise the implementation of the corresponding programs and activities therein;
- b. Assess and evaluate the potential impact of development to the environmental safety and well-being of the ecotourism zone;
- c. Conduct consultations with local residents who are affected by ecotourism development to assimilate their cultural values and beliefs in the master plan and other programs;
- d. Provide technical and financial assistance to communities in the ecotourism zone;
- e. Formulate rules and regulations which shall prohibit illegal fishing and related activities; and
- f. Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SECTION 5. To carry out the purposes of the Act, there shall be created a special fund, called the Placer Ecotourism Fund, which shall be sourced from at least 40% of the environmental fee, which shall be collected by the Council from all visiting tourists.

SECTION 6. If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions, which are not effected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

*Approved.*