



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9552

BY REPRESENTATIVES GO (E.C.), ARAGONES, BASCUG, VIOLAGO, GATO, GO (M.), MATUGAS, FARIÑAS (R.C.), EBCAS, BAÑAS-NOGRALES, DAGOOC, SAULOG, GUYA, SAVELLANO, ALBANO, BARBA, DY (F.), FRASCO, LOYOLA, SILVERIO AND ELAGO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1032

AN ACT

DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN MARIANO AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF PALANAN, PROVINCE OF ISABELA, AS ECOTOURISM ZONES, TO BE JOINTLY KNOWN AS THE SAN MARIANO-PALANAN ECOTOURISM CORRIDOR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The Municipality of San Mariano and the Municipality of Palanan in the
2 Province of Isabela are hereby declared as ecotourism zones, to be jointly known as the San
3 Mariano-Palanan Ecotourism Corridor. As such, the development of the San Mariano-Palanan
4 Ecotourism Corridor shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and its concerned
5 attached agencies, subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism
6 zones.

7 **SEC. 2.** Within one (1) year from the approval of this Act, the DOT shall, in coordination
8 with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Public
9 Works and Highways (DPWH), the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority
10 (TIEZA) and concerned local government units (LGUs) and agencies of the government, prepare
11 a comprehensive tourism development plan for the San Mariano-Palanan Ecotourism Corridor.
12 The development plan shall include the identification, validation, construction, installation and
13 maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure to enhance ecotourism in the areas:
14 *Provided,* That said development plan shall ensure the preservation of the cultural heritage of the

1 areas and the conservation of its biophysical assets, and incorporate strategies and programs to
2 promote sustainable economic opportunities for the local communities.

3 The DOT, DPWH and TIEZA shall prioritize the construction and completion of the San
4 Mariano-Palanan Road in order to ensure the accessibility of tourists.

5 **SEC. 3.** The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the development plan and shall
6 incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the calendar year immediately
7 succeeding the approval of this Act.

8 **SEC. 4.** The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the
9 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
10 Appropriations Act, and shall augment such allocation with internally generated funds of the
11 Department.

12 **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT shall, in
13 consultation with the concerned LGUs and agencies of the government, promulgate the necessary
14 rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

15 **SEC. 6.** If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other
16 provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

17 **SEC. 7.** All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, proclamations, presidential decrees
18 and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed
19 or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,