Republic of the Philippines
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**
Second Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
RECEIVED
DATE: MAR 02 2021
TIME: 1:49 pm
BY:
BILLS & INDEX SERVICE

**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 789**

Submitted by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations on MAR 02 2021
Re : House Bill No. 8853
Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 6070
Sponsors : Representatives Sol Aragones, Eric Go Yap and Roger G. Mercado

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations, to which was referred House Bill No. 6070, introduced by Representative Roger G. Mercado, entitled:

**AN ACT**
**DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE A TOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 8853, entitled:

**AN ACT**
**DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE A TOURISM ZONE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 6070 with Representative Roger G. Mercado as author thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

**REP. ERIC GO YAP**
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

**REP. SOL ARAGONES**
Chairperson
Committee on Tourism

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. 8853
(In substitution of House Bill No. 6070)

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Introduced by Representative Roger G. Mercado

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**AN ACT**
**DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE A TOURISM ZONE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**SECTION 1.** The Province of Southern Leyte is hereby declared a tourism zone. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourism zones.

**SEC. 2**. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and other concerned agencies of the government, shall prepare a tourism development plan providing for the development, maintenance, improvement and restoration of tourism sites, where appropriate, in conformity with set standards, including the construction of hotels, resorts, restaurants, recreational facilities and other appropriate facilities and infrastructure: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation of the ecological balance and natural beauty of the area.

**SEC. 3.** The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the development plan and incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year.

**SEC. 4**. Upon the promulgation of this Act, the DPWH, in coordination with the DOT, shall implement the construction and improvement of roads and other infrastructure necessary in the development of the Province of Southern Leyte and incorporate the same in the Department's infrastructure program.

**SEC. 5.** The Secretaries of the DOT and DPWH shall include in their respective Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act, and shall augment such allocation with internally generated funds of the DOT.

**SEC. 6**. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

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

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

Approved,