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H. No. 5954

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.), MANIQUIZ, 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. 142

AN ACT
DECLARING TORRIJOS WHITE BEACH LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TORRIJOS, PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE, A TOURISM DESTINATION

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

SECTION 1. ***Torrijos White Beach as Tourism Destination***. – The Torrijos White Beach located in the Municipality of Torrijos, Province of Marinduque, is hereby declared a tourism destination. Pursuant thereto, its development shall be prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourism destinations.

SEC. 2. ***Tourism Development Plan***. – Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the municipal government of Torrijos shall, in coordination with the DOT, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Representative of the Lone District of Marinduque and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate infrastructure and facilities to enhance tourism in the area: *Provided,* That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the area: *Provided, further,* That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the municipal government of Torrijos.,

SEC. 3. ***Torrijos White Beach Tourism Governing Board***. – The Torrijos White Beach Tourism Governing Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, is hereby created. It shall be composed of the following members:

(a) Mayor of the Municipality of Torrijos, as Chairperson;

(b) Secretary of the DOT, or a duly authorized representative;

(c) Secretary of the DENR, or a duly authorized representative;

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

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

(f) Representative from the academe; and

(g) Representative from the business sector.

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

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

SEC. 4. ***Role of the DOT***. – The DOT shall assist the municipal government of Torrijos in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include Torrijos White Beach in its national and regional promotion programs.

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

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

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

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

Approved,