COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 970

Submitted by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations on May 18, 2021
Re : House Bill No. 9361
 Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5493
Sponsors : Representatives Sol Aragones, Eric Go Yap and Cyrille “Beng” F. Abueg-Zaldivar

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations, to which was referred House Bill No. 5493, introduced by Rep. Cyrille “Beng” F. Abueg-Zaldivar, entitled:

AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALABAC, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, AS AN ECO-TOURISM ZONE, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 9361, entitled:

AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALABAC, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 5493 with Representative Cyrille “Beng” F. Abueg-Zaldivar 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  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila  

Eighteenth Congress  
Second Regular Session  

HOUSE BILL NO. 9361  
(In substitution of House Bill No. 5493)  

Introduced by Representative Cyrille “Beng” F. Abueg-Zaldivar  

AN ACT  
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALABAC, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR  

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

SECTION 1. The Municipality of Balabac is hereby declared an ecotourism zone. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.  

Sec. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT shall, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), the municipal government of Balabac, the provincial government of Palawan, the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) and other concerned agencies of the government, prepare a development plan that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure to enhance ecotourism in the area. The DOT shall identity well-defined geographic areas within the ecotourism zone, which shall include the existing infrastructure and facilities therein,
and ensure the integrated development of these areas for the optimum utilization of natural assets and attractions, as well as the preservation and conservation of its natural beauty and historical significance.

The plan shall be implemented jointly with the municipal government of Balabac, the provincial government of Palawan, PCSD, TIEZA and other concerned government agencies.

Sec. 3. The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the development plan and incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the calendar year immediately succeeding the approval of this Act. It shall also include the Municipality of Balabac in all its national, regional and local promotion programs.

Sec. 4. 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 shall augment such allocation with internally generated funds of the Department.

Sec. 5. Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the DOT shall, in consultation with the TIEZA, the municipal government of Balabac, the provincial government of Palawan and the PCSD, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

Sec. 6. All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed and amended accordingly.

Sec. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
Approved,