

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8015

BY REPRESENTATIVES TUPAS, CUEVA, GORRICETA AND BARONDA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 601

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE SICOGON ISLAND LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
CARLES, PROVINCE OF ILOILO, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the “Sicogon Island Ecotourism Zone
2 Act.”

3 **SEC. 2.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry
4 that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally-sensitive, economically
5 viable and equitably beneficial to local communities.

6 **SEC. 3.** The Sicogon Island, consisting of three (3) barangays, namely, Alipata,
7 Buaya, and San Fernando, all located in the Municipality of Carles, Province of Iloilo, is
8 hereby declared an ecotourism zone, to be known as the “Sicogon Island Ecotourism Zone”.
9 As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject
10 to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.

11 Within six (6) months from the approval of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with
12 the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Tourism Infrastructure
13 and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and the municipal government of Carles, shall

1 prepare and jointly implement the development plan for Sicogon Island and shall incorporate
2 the same in the National Tourism Development Plan.

3 The DOT, in coordination with the DENR, the TIEZA, the municipal government of
4 Carles, and other concerned agencies of government, shall delineate well-defined geographic
5 areas within the Sicogon Island Ecotourism Zone and coordinate the integrated development
6 of the area for the optimum use of natural assets and attractions. The development shall ensure
7 the preservation of the flora and fauna and perpetuate the historic significance of the identified
8 tourist attractions.

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

13 **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the
14 DOT, in consultation with the DENR, the TIEZA and the municipal government of Carles,
15 shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this
16 Act.

17 **SEC. 6.** All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees and other issuances
18 inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended
19 accordingly.

20 **SEC. 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*
21 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

22 Approved,