



Republic of the Philippines
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MEMORANDUM

TO : The Directors
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Land Management Bureau
Policy and Planning Service
Legal Affairs Service

The Regional Executive Directors
DENR- Region IV-A & VI

FROM : The Assistant Secretary
Field Operations- Mindanao and Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT : **INVITATION FROM THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM**

DATE : 03 March 2021

This pertains to the letter dated 02 March 2021 from Senator **MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**, Chairperson, Committee on Tourism, inviting DENR to a virtual public hearing via (CISCO WebEx) on **Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.** to deliberate on;

- SBN 1328 – AN ACT DECLARING THE NORTHERN ANTIQUE PROTECTED SEASCAPE AND LANDSCAPE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LIBERTAD, PANDAN, SEBASTE, CULASI AND TIBIAO IN THE PROVINCE OF ANTIQUE AS AN ECOTOURISM ZONE TO ENCOURAGE THE RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE USE AS WELL AS FOR THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES FOUND THEREIN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (Introduced by Senator Zubiri);
- HBN 7689 – AN ACT DECLARING THE NORTHERN ANTIQUE PROTECTED SEASCAPE AND LANDSCAPE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LIBERTAD, PANDAN, SEBASTE, CULASI AND TIBIAO IN THE PROVINCE OF ANTIQUE AN ECOTOURISM ZONE TO ENCOURAGE THE RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE USE, AND THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION, OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES THEREIN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR. (Introduced by Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda); and
- HBN 8208 – AN ACT DECLARING MASUNGI GEORESERVE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BARAS, PROVINCE OF RIZAL, AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR. (Introduced by Representatives Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, Sol Aragon, Alfel M. Bascug, Juliette T. Uy, Micaela S. Violago, Ciriaco B. Gato Jr., Fernando T. Cabredo, Arnold “Noli” D. Celeste, and Irene Gay F. Saulog)

Kindly inform this Office of your attendance before the scheduled date of the meeting and submit presentation, comments and/or position paper in hard and soft copy at the Legislative Liaison Office at telephone number 8920-1761 and e-mail address denrlegislative@yahoo.com, for our reference. For further query may be coursed through 0945 750 5319 or at mcrmendoza@yahoo.com.


JOANA A. LAGUNDA, D.M., D.P.A



Republic of the Philippines

SENATE

Pasay City

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

March 2, 2021

SUBJECT : INVITATION TO A PUBLIC HEARING

HON. ROY A. CIMATU

Secretary

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Dear **Secretary Cimat**:

The Senate Committee on Tourism would like to invite you to its public hearing on **Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.** to hear your comments and recommendations on the following proposed legislative measures:

- **SBN 1328** – AN ACT DECLARING THE NORTHERN ANTIQUE PROTECTED SEASCAPE AND LANDSCAPE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LIBERTAD, PANDAN, SEBASTE, CULASI AND TIBIAO IN THE PROVINCE OF ANTIQUE AS AN ECOTOURISM ZONE TO ENCOURAGE THE RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE USE AS WELL AS FOR THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES FOUND THEREIN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES *(Introduced by Senator Zubiri)*;
- **HBN 7689** – AN ACT DECLARING THE NORTHERN ANTIQUE PROTECTED SEASCAPE AND LANDSCAPE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LIBERTAD, PANDAN, SEBASTE, CULASI AND TIBIAO IN THE PROVINCE OF ANTIQUE AN ECOTOURISM ZONE TO ENCOURAGE THE RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE USE, AND THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION, OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES THEREIN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR. *(Introduced by Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda)*; and
- **HBN 8208** – AN ACT DECLARING MASUNGI GEORESERVE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BARAS, PROVINCE OF RIZAL, AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR. *(Introduced by Representatives Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, Sol Aragones, Alfel M. Bascug, Juliette T. Uy, Micaela S. Violago, Ciriaco B. Gato Jr., Fernando T. Cabredo, Arnold "Noli" D. Celeste, and Irene Gay F. Saulog).*

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE SUPPORT SERVICE FOR GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL CONCERNS, Room 304-A, 3rd Floor,

Senate of the Philippines, J.W. Diokno Boulevard, Pasay City

Tel. No. 8552-6601 local 3318

Telefax Nos. 8552-6750 / 8552-6888

The Committees request for the submission of your position paper on or before the hearing date.

The public hearing will be held in pure online via Cisco Webex. In this regard, kindly provide the Committee the email address/es where the access code to the virtual meeting room will be sent.

Attached to this invitation are ecopies of the abovementioned proposed legislations for your ready reference.

For the submission of your position paper and confirmation of your attendance or that of your authorized representative/s, kindly coordinate with the undersigned at 0945 750 5319 or at mcrmendoza@yahoo.com.

The Committee highly appreciates your participation in the virtual meeting.

Sincerely,

**FOR THE CHAIRPERSON:
SEN. MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**

by: 
MARIA CLARINDA R. MENDOZA
Committee Secretary

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7689
(In Substitution of House Bill 632)

Introduced by: Representative Loren B. Legarda

AN ACT DECLARING THE NORTHERN ANTIQUE PROTECTED SEASCAPE AND LANDSCAPE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LIBERTAD, PANDAN, SEBASTE, CULASI AND TIBIAO IN THE PROVINCE OF ANTIQUE AN ECOTOURISM ZONE TO ENCOURAGE THE RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE USE, AND THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION, OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES THEREIN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** -- This Act shall be known as the "*Northern Antique*
2 *Protected Seascape and Landscape Act.*"

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - The State is mandated to promote a tourism
4 industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally
5 sensitive, economically viable, and equitable for the local community. Towards this
6 end, the Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape (NAPSL) located in the
7 municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi and Tibiao in the Province of
8 Antique, is hereby declared as an ecotourism zone, where the responsible and
9 sustainable use of the natural resources therein shall be encouraged and strictly
10 implemented.

11 **SEC. 3. Objectives.** - Pursuant to the above declaration of policy, the State shall
12 endeavor to accomplish the following:

- 1 (a) Develop and promote responsible, community-based ecological tourism as the
2 core management strategy in the development of the NAPSL;
- 3 (b) Ensure the conservation of the biodiversity and the preservation of the said
4 ecotourism site;
- 5 (c) Develop ecotourism products and programs that will generate employment and
6 livelihood for the local residents concerned, consistent with the preservation and
7 maintenance of the natural resources;
- 8 (d) Guarantee that the financial and economic benefits of the tourism industry are
9 equitably shared by and distributed among the local residents concerned by giving
10 preferential attention and support to community- and home-based tourism
11 enterprises, such as resorts and home stays, micro and small businesses including
12 restaurants, food and fruit stands, and other similar tourism-oriented industries and
13 businesses;
- 14 (e) Ensure the proper and adequate training of local tour operators and tour guides,
15 non-government organizations (NGOs), concerned local government units
16 (LGUs), and the Department of Tourism (DOT) and Department of Environment
17 and Natural Resources (DENR), which shall be responsible for providing tourists
18 and visitors with educational and enriching activities, tour programs and
19 experiences; and
- 20 (f) Guarantee that in the development and promotion of the local tourism industry, the
21 concerned LGUs shall ensure that the needs of local residents for adequate water
22 supply, food, energy, transportation and local construction materials are first
23 secured and met.

24 **SEC. 4. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

- 1 (a) *Buffer Zone* refers to an identified area outside the boundaries of and
2 immediately adjacent to the NAPSL that need special development control in
3 order to avoid or minimize any threat or harm to the NAPSL;
- 4 (b) *Community-Based Ecotourism* refers to a form of tourism where the local
5 community and its residents have substantial control and involvement in the
6 development and management of the local tourism industry and a greater portion
7 of the economic gains remain within the community;
- 8 (c) *Ecotourism* refers to a form of sustainable tourism within a natural area where
9 community participation, protection and management of natural resources,
10 cultural and indigenous knowledge and practices, environmental education and
11 ethics, as well as economic benefits are fostered and pursued for the enrichment
12 of host communities and the satisfaction of the visitors; and,
- 13 (d) *Responsible Ecotourism* refers to a form of sustainable tourism in which both the
14 tourism sector and the tourists take responsibility in the protection, respect, and
15 conservation of the natural environment and the local culture and ways of life,
16 and where community participation as well as economic benefits are fostered and
17 pursued for the well-being of the local people and visitors.

18 **SEC. 5. Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape.**— The Northern
19 Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape located in the municipalities of Libertad,
20 Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao in the Province of Antique is hereby declared a
21 responsible, community-based ecotourism zone. It shall be accorded priority development by
22 the DOT, DENR, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and Tourism
23 Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), subject to the rules and regulations
24 governing the development of ecotourism zones as provided in the national ecotourism strategy
25 jointly adopted and implemented by the DENR and DOT.

1 **SEC. 6. Scope and Coverage.** – The NAPSL, which shall cover an area of
2 364,453.5395 hectares, shall be composed of the following:

- 3 a) The wetland area located in Brgy. Mag-aba, Pandan, Antique composed of
4 mangrove forest and estuarine river ecosystem with an area of 21,095 hectares,
5 located in Brgy. Mag-aba, Pandan Antique;
- 6 b) The seas, islet and sandbar ecosystem covering the municipalities of Libertad,
7 Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao with an area of 213,556.26 hectares; and,
- 8 c) The Pandan Bay with an area of 150,876.25 hectares.

9 The corresponding boundaries shall be as follows:

10 **A. The wetland area**

11 The wetland area pertains to the area beginning at point marked TP - 1, being N 81° 21'
12 W, 27,787.09 meters from reference BLLM 1, PLS 1107, Northern Antique Protected
13 Seascape and Landscape,

14	thence S 75° 30' E	3,242.00	meters to corner 2;
15	thence N 81° 34' E	3,723.95	meters to corner 3
16	thence S 88° 11' E	4,292.00	meters to corner 4
17	thence S 70° 26' E	7,759.31	meters to corner 5
18	thence S 83° 19' E	3,489.57	meters to corner 6
19	thence N 78° 36' E	2,873.78	meters to corner 7
20	thence S 40° 19' E	4,925.65	meters to corner 8
21	thence S 05° 55' W	14,342.35	meters to corner 9
22	thence S 12° 57' W	4,208.77	meters to corner 10
23	thence S 20° 40' W	8,176.30	meters to corner 11
24	thence S 26° 28' E	2,100.83	meters to corner 12
25	thence S 15° 07' W	3,828.16	meters to corner 13

1	thence S 14° 11' E	4,552.10	meters to corner 14
2	thence S 07° 49' W	2,472.18	meters to corner 15
3	thence N 89° 51' W	17,369.06	meters to corner 16
4	thence S 19° 13' W	3,169.16	meters to corner 17
5	thence S 47° 56' W	18,926.52	meters to corner 18
6	thence S 61° 51' W	6,834.81	meters to corner 19
7	thence S 88° 08' W	6,837.37	meters to corner 20
8	thence N 65° 37' W	6,817.66	meters to corner 21
9	thence N 40° 46' W	6,141.86	meters to corner 22
10	thence N 16° 52' W	6,841.57	meters to corner 23
11	thence N 09° 23' E	6,833.87	meters to corner 24
12	thence N 03° 19' E	32,126.72	meters to corner 25
13	thence N 31° 53' E	4,886.87	meters to corner 26
14	thence N 50° 38' E	3,792.90	meters to corner 27
15	thence N 66° 15' E	6,070.27	meters to corner 28
16	thence N 83° 30' E	20,309.49	meters to corner 1,

17 comprising an area of two hundred ninety-nine thousand nine hundred forty two and
18 542/100 (299,942.542) hectares, more or less.

19 **B. Seas, Islets and Sandbar Ecosystem**

20 The sea, islets and sandbar ecosystem pertains to the area beginning at point marked
21 TP - 1, being S 86° 08' W, 33,925.26 meters from reference BLLM 1, PLS 1107,
22 Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape,

23	thence S 44° 36' W	14,735.43	meters to corner 2;
24	thence S 30° 12' E	1,957.43	meters to corner 3;
25	thence S 57° 20' E	24,725.84	meters to corner 4;
26	thence N 81° 25' E	4,111.89	meters to corner 5;

1 thence S 52° 51' E 11,911.68 meters to corner 6;
2 thence N 84° 22' E 3,904.27 meters to corner 7;
3 thence S 14° 11' E 4,552.10 meters to corner 8;
4 thence S 07° 49' W 2,472.18 meters to corner 9;
5 thence N 89° 51' W 17,369.06 meters to corner 10;
6 thence S 19° 13' W 3,169.16 meters to corner 11;
7 thence S 47° 56' W 18,926.52 meters to corner 12;
8 thence S 61° 51' W 6,834.81 meters to corner 13;
9 thence S 88° 08' W 6,837.37 meters to corner 14;
10 thence N 65° 37' W 6,817.66 meters to corner 15;
11 thence N 35° 22' W 6,930.04 meters to corner 16;
12 thence N 19° 42' W 5,891.75 meters to corner 17;
13 thence N 09° 23' E 6,833.87 meters to corner 18;
14 thence N 03° 19' E 32,126.72 meters to corner 19;
15 thence N 31° 53' E 4,886.87 meters to corner 20;
16 thence N 50° 38' E 3,792.90 meters to corner 21;
17 thence N 66° 15' E 6,070.27 meters to corner 22;
18 thence N 88° 45' E 5,636.26 meters to corner 23;
19 thence S 62° 17' E 9,225.27 meters to corner 1,

20 comprising an area of one hundred eighty-six thousand forty two hundred and 676/100
21 (186,042.676) hectares, more or less.

22 **C. Pandan Bay**

23 Pandan Bay pertains to the area beginning at point marked TP - 1, being N 81° 21' W,
24 27,787.09 meters from reference BLLM 1, PLS 1107, Northern Antique Protected
25 Seascape and Landscape,

26 thence S 75° 30' E 3,242.00 meters to corner 2;

1	thence	N 81° 34' E	3,723.95	meters to corner 3;
2	thence	S 88° 11' E	4,292.00	meters to corner 4;
3	thence	S 70° 26' E	7,759.31	meters to corner 5;
4	thence	S 83° 19' E	3,489.57	meters to corner 6;
5	thence	N 78° 36' E	2,873.78	meters to corner 7;
6	thence	S 40° 19' E	4,925.65	meters to corner 8;
7	thence	S 05° 55' W	14,342.35	meters to corner 9;
8	thence	S 12° 57' W	4,208.77	meters to corner 10;
9	thence	S 20° 40' W	8,176.30	meters to corner 11;
10	thence	S 26° 28' E	2,100.83	meters to corner 12;
11	thence	S 15° 07' W	3,828.16	meters to corner 13;
12	thence	S 84° 22' W	3,904.27	meters to corner 14;
13	thence	N 52° 51' W	11,911.68	meters to corner 15;
14	thence	S 81° 25' W	4,111.89	meters to corner 16;
15	thence	N 57° 20' W	24,725.84	meters to corner 17;
16	thence	N 30° 12' W	1,957.43	meters to corner 18;
17	thence	N 44° 36' E	23,817.36	meters to corner 1,

18 comprising an area of one hundred nine thousand sixty seven hundred and 405/100
19 (109,067.405) hectares, more or less.

20 The metes and bounds of NAPSL shall be indicated on maps and nautical charts. Any
21 modification of the coverage of this Act due to such factors as changing ecological situation,
22 new scientific or archaeological findings, or discovery of traditional boundaries not
23 previously taken into account shall be made through an act of Congress, after consultation
24 with the concerned government agencies.

25 **SEC. 7. Establishment of Buffer Zones.** — There shall also be established buffer zones

1 surrounding the NAPSL for the purpose of providing extra protection around the area, where
2 restrictions shall apply and communities can assist in repelling threats to the NAPSL. Such
3 buffer zones shall be managed according to the ecotourism and management plan formulated
4 pursuant to this Act.

5 Such buffer zones shall be included in the ecotourism development and management
6 plan of the NASPL: *Provided*, That no build up in, or reclamation of, any part of the
7 designated buffer zone that is detrimental to the biodiversity in the NASPL shall be made.
8 The Council shall exercise its authority over the designated buffer zone.

9 **SEC. 8. Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism**
10 *Development and Management Plan.* – The DENR and the DOT, in coordination with the
11 DPWH and TIEZA, shall jointly assist the Northern Antique Protected Seascape and
12 Landscape Protected Area Management Board herein created in the formulation of the
13 ecotourism development and management plan for the NAPSL that shall be complemented
14 by a set of guidelines to promote responsible, community-based ecotourism. The tourism
15 development and management plan shall ensure the preservation of the seascapes and
16 landscapes within the NAPSL and shall include the following components:

- 17 (a) Carrying capacity of the seascapes and landscapes and its endemic and migratory
18 birds species;
- 19 (b) Specific site assessment, including terrestrial, underwater (biotic and abiotic),
20 oceanographic and other scientific site assessment;
- 21 (c) Identification of strategic priorities;
- 22 (d) Product development for local income generation;
- 23 (e) Capacity building for the local community to allow residents therein to ably
24 manage economically viable and responsible, community-based ecotourism
25 business enterprises;

- 1 (f) Support for the formulation of local groups and networks, including the marketing
2 and pricing of products;
- 3 (g) Marketing strategies that reflect the natural, social and environmental integrity of
4 the NAPSL;
- 5 (h) Regular water quality monitoring of the sea water that surround the protected
6 seascape and landscape;
- 7 (i) Management and maintenance of the mangrove areas; and
- 8 (j) Proper solid waste management in accordance with Republic Act No. 9003, or the
9 "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act;" and
- 10 (k) Proper use, protection, preservation and revival of water resources and
11 implementation of a proper sewerage system in accordance with Republic Act No.
12 9275, or the "Clean Water Act;"

13 The process of developing the ecotourism development and management plan for the
14 NAPSL shall be participatory, from the bottom up, with the framework to be provided by the
15 DOT and DENR in consultation with the Northern Antique Protected Seascape and
16 Landscape Protected Area Management Board herein created.

17 In order to protect the mangroves and forests in NAPSL, the foreshore areas shall not
18 be leased to any private entity: *Provided*, That Special Agreements on Protected Area
19 (SAPA) as defined under Republic Act No. 7586, or the National Integrated Protected Areas
20 System Act of 1992, may be availed of, which shall be implemented upon the issuance of a
21 Protected Area and Management Board (PAMB) Clearance.

22 **SEC. 9. Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Protected**
23 **Area Management Board.** – There shall be created a multi-sectoral board, to be known as
24 the "Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Protected Area Management
25 Board"; hereinafter referred to as the Board. It shall be composed of the following members:

- 1 (a) Mayors of the municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi and Tibiao who
2 shall take turns serving as Chairperson;
- 3 (b) Heads of the Municipal Tourism Offices of the municipalities of Libertad,
4 Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi and Tibiao who shall take turns serving as Vice-
5 chairperson;
- 6 (c) Heads of the Municipal Environmental and Natural Resources Office of the
7 municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi and Tibiao who shall take turns
8 serving as member;
- 9 (d) Presidents of the Association of Barangay Chairpersons (ABC) of the
10 municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi and Tibiao who shall also serve
11 alternately as member;
- 12 (e) Chairpersons of the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management
13 Councils of the municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi and Tibiao
14 who shall also serve alternately as member;
- 15 (f) Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) of the
16 Province of Antique;
- 17 (g) Director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB);
- 18 (h) Chief Operating Officer of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone
19 Authority (TIEZA);
- 20 (i) Regional Director of DOT-Region 6;
- 21 (j) Regional Director of DENR-Region 6;
- 22 (k) Regional Director of DPWH-Region 6;
- 23 (l) Representative from an academic institution, preferably from a state university
24 or college in the Province of Antique, with proven track record in or related to
25 protected seascapes and landscapes management;

1 (m) Representative from the private sector, a resident of the Province of Antique,
2 who is distinguished in a profession or field of interest relevant to protected
3 seascapes and landscapes management; and,

4 (n) Representative from either a non-government organization (NGO) or People's
5 Organization (PO), duly accredited both by the DENR and the provincial
6 government of Antique. The NGO or PO represented should have been in
7 existence for at least five (5) years with a proven track record in or related to
8 seascapes and landscapes management.

9 The Mayor-member acting as Chairperson of the Board shall serve together with the
10 heads of the respective municipal tourism office, municipal environmental and natural
11 resource office, President of the ABC, and the Chairperson of the Municipal Fisheries and
12 Aquatic Resources Management Council.

13 The *ex-officio* members of the Board, by virtue of their elective or appointive
14 government positions as specified in the immediately preceding subsections (a), (b), (c), (d),
15 (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), and (k) shall serve for the duration of their respective terms of office.

16 The members of the Board specified under subsections (l), (m), and (n) of this section
17 shall be elected by the *ex-officio* members of the Board in a transparent and fair manner.
18 They shall each serve a term of three (3) years and may be reappointed for another term.

19 The members of the Board shall serve without compensation, but shall be granted
20 actual and necessary travelling and subsistence expenses to be incurred in the performance of
21 their duties, either in their attendance in meetings of the Board or in connection with other
22 official business authorized through a Resolution of the Board, subject to existing rules and
23 regulations. The members shall represent their respective sectors with utmost fidelity and
24 accountability. The decision of each member shall be binding upon the sector that he or she
25 represents.

1 The members of the Board duly elected or appointed prior to the effectivity of this Act
2 shall continue to serve until the expiration of their term or appointment. Thereafter, members
3 of the Board shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

4 A member of the Board may be removed for any of the following grounds:

- 5 (a) More than three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from regular meetings of the
6 Board;
- 7 (b) Commission of acts prejudicial to the development and management of NAPSL
8 as embodied in existing rules and regulations governing NAPSL;
- 9 (c) Disassociation from the office or organization being represented;
- 10 (d) Termination of relationship with the office or organization being represented; or
- 11 (e) Conviction by final judgment of any criminal act.

12 The local government of the Province of Antique shall provide a secretariat for the
13 Board and the funding necessary to cover the expenses for the performance of its official
14 functions and activities.

15 **SEC. 10. *Functions and Responsibilities of the Northern Antique Protected***
16 ***Seascape and Landscape Protected Area Management Board (PAMB).*** – The PAMB
17 shall be responsible for the following:

- 18 (a) Implementation of the ecotourism development and management plan in
19 consultation with the local residents, businesses, and other stakeholders;
- 20 (b) Assessment and evaluation of the potential impact of the development plan on
21 environmental safety including the biodiversity in the seascapes and
22 landscapes, and the safety and wellbeing of communities and enterprises
23 located within the NAPSL;
- 24 (c) Provision of technical and financial assistance to the communities within the
25 seascapes and landscapes;

- 1 (d) Implementation of a monitoring plan to ensure the well-being of water birds and
2 the preservation of their habitats;
- 3 (e) Formulation of rules and regulations in relation to the maintenance and
4 security of the ecotourism areas; and
- 5 (f) Performance of other functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives
6 of this Act.

7 **SEC. 11. *Formulation of Guidelines and Standards.*** – The DENR and DOT
8 shall assist the PAMB in the formulation of local ecotourism standards that shall integrate
9 environmental protection in the development and management of ecotourism plans.

10 The guidelines and standards shall:

- 11 (a) Promote the observance of best practices in environmental preservation through
12 capacity-building activities;
- 13 (b) Ensure optimal use of water and energy;
- 14 (c) Promote waste and pollution reduction through the encouragement of recycling
15 and other environmentally-sound waste management reduction and disposal
16 schemes;
- 17 (d) Include security enforcement measures to prevent crime and vandalism within the
18 eco-park; and
- 19 (e) Encourage the use of local produce and services, and support the
20 employment of local people.

21 **SEC. 12. *Coordination with National Agencies.*** - The DENR and the DOT
22 shall closely coordinate with the PAMB, as well as the relevant regional offices of the
23 DPWH, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of
24 Transportation (DOTr), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of
25 Education (DepEd), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of the
26 Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippine National Police (PNP),

1 Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and other line agencies of the government
2 in the implementation of this Act.

3 **SEC. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** — Within thirty (30) days
4 from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR and the DOT, in consultation with
5 the PAMB, other concerned government agencies, and stakeholders, shall
6 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper and effective
7 implementation of this Act.

8 **SEC. 14. *Appropriations.*** — The Secretaries of the DENR, DOT and DPWH and
9 the Chief Operating Officer of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone
10 Authority (TIEZA) shall include in their respective programs the implementation
11 of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
12 Appropriations Act and from internally generated funds of the DOT.

13 **SEC. 15. *Separability Clause.*** — If, for any reason, any provision of this
14 Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are
15 not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

16 **SEC. 16. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamation
17 and administrative regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby
18 repealed or modified accordingly.

19 **SEC. 17. *Effectivity.*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
20 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8208

BY REPRESENTATIVES NOGRALES (J.J.), ARAGONES, BASCUG, UY (J.), VIOLAGO, GATO, CABREDO,
CELESTE AND SAULOG, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 661

**AN ACT
DECLARING MASUNGI GEORESERVE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BARAS,
PROVINCE OF RIZAL, AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The Masungi Georeserve in the Municipality of Baras, Province of Rizal,
2 is hereby declared an ecotourism destination. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the
3 Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development
4 of ecotourism destinations.

5 **SEC. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in consultation with
6 the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Public Works and
7 Highways, Department of the Interior and Local Government, other concerned government
8 agencies, local government units (LGUs) and civil society organizations, shall prepare an
9 ecotourism development plan including the construction, installation and maintenance of such
10 appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall enhance, develop and promote ecotourism in
11 the area, and improve accessibility and ensure the security of tourists: *Provided*, That said

1 development plan shall ensure the preservation, conservation and optimum utilization of
2 available assets and resources in the area.

3 **SEC. 3.** The DOT, in coordination with all concerned government agencies and LGUs,
4 shall take immediate steps to implement the development plan and incorporate the same in its
5 tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year. It shall also include the Masungi
6 Georeserve in all its national, regional and local promotions programs.

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

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

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

16 **SEC. 8** If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or
17 invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

18 **SEC. 9.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*
19 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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20 FEB 10 P5:01

SENATE

RECEIVED BY

Senate Bill No. 1328

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE NORTHERN ANTIQUE PROTECTED SEASCAPE AND
LANDSCAPE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LIBERTAD,
PANDAN, SEBASTE, CULASI AND TIBIAO IN THE PROVINCE OF
ANTIQUE AS AN ECOTOURISM ZONE TO ENCOURAGE THE
RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE USE AS WELL AS FOR THE
PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES
FOUND THEREIN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The people's right to a healthful ecology is enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines as stated in Section 16 of Article II which states, "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature." This Bill is a step in the fulfilment of that Constitutional mandate.

This bill seeks to declare the Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape (NAPSL) composed of the towns of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi and Tibiao as an ecotourism zone. It will be a true protected area with the appropriate delineation and zoning in order to achieve a balance of various land and water resource uses such as protection, production and settlements and multi-use areas. The NAPSL shall also serve to provide Filipinos with the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 1. End poverty; Goal 2. Zero hunger; Goal 3. Good health and Well-being; Goal 6. Clean water and sanitation; Goal 11. Sustainable cities and communities.^[1]

The NAPSL hosts a rich biodiversity that provide food, clean water, clean air, space for recreation and adventure for its splendour and unspoiled beauty. It needs protection which can be carried out fully well by a Protected Area Management Board with jurisdiction straddling various municipalities. The bill strives to address developmental needs of the community while assigning great importance to the carrying capacity and rich biodiversity of the NAPSL which cannot be replaced readily or at all.

The NAPSL is highlighted by features and species that need protection. Among them are the Mag-aba Wetland, Pandan Bay, Bugang River, endemic mangrove species, beach forest trees and fauna such as the Philippine duck (*Anas Luzonica*).

This Bill aspires to create a sustainable ecological tourism zone in Antique. The persistent global trend to visit as many magnificent nature reserves around the world behooves us to establish mechanisms to protect these areas. This bill will make it doable to implement protection measures within the NAPSL while allowing appropriate activities for Filipinos to satisfy the need for food, potable water, raw materials for commercial and industrial purposes only within limits.

In view of the above, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1328

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

AN ACT
DECLARING THE NORTHERN ANTIQUE PROTECTED SEASCAPE AND
LANDSCAPE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LIBERTAD,
PANDAN, SEBASTE, CULASI AND TIBIAO IN THE PROVINCE OF
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RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE USE AS WELL AS FOR THE
PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES
FOUND THEREIN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

- 1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Northern*
2 *Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2020.*”
- 3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - The State is mandated to promote a
4 tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative,
5 culturally sensitive, economically viable, and equitable for the local community.
6 Towards this end, the Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape
7 (NAPSL) is hereby declared as a special ecotourism zone, where the responsible
8 and sustainable use of the natural resources therein is encouraged and will be
9 strictly implemented.
- 10 **SEC. 3. Objectives.** - Pursuant to the above declaration of policy, the
11 State shall endeavor to accomplish the following:
- 12 (a) Develop and promote responsible, community-based ecological tourism as
13 the core management strategy in the development of the NAPSL;
- 14 (b) Ensure the conservation of the biodiversity and the preservation of the
15 said ecotourism site;
- 16 (c) Develop ecotourism products and programs that will generate
17 employment and livelihood for the local residents concerned, consistent with the
18 preservation and maintenance of the natural resources;

- 1 (d) Guarantee that the financial and economic benefits of the tourism industry
2 are equitably shared by, and distributed among the local residents concerned by
3 giving preference and support to community and home-based tourism
4 enterprises, such as, but not limited to, resorts and homestays, micro and small
5 businesses including restaurants, food and fruit stands, and other similar
6 tourism-oriented industries and businesses;
- 7 (e) Ensure that the quality of local ecotourism programs and activities are
8 educational and enriching for tourists and visitors through the provision of
9 orientation, educational and tour programs by local tour operators, non-
10 government organizations (NGOs), the concerned Local Government Units
11 (LGUs), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the
12 Department of Tourism (DOT); and,
- 13 (f) Guarantee that in the development and promotion of the local tourism
14 industry, the concerned Local Government Units (LGUs) shall ensure that the
15 needs of the local residents for adequate water supply, food, energy,
16 transportation and local construction materials are first secured and met.

17 **SEC. 4. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

- 18 (a) *Buffer Zone* refers to an identified area outside the boundaries of and
19 immediately adjacent to the NAPSL that need special development control in
20 order to avoid or minimize any threat or harm to the NAPSL;
- 21 (b) *Community-Based Ecotourism* refers to a form of tourism where the local
22 community and its residents have substantial control and involvement in the
23 development and management of the local tourism industry and a greater
24 portion of the economic gains remain within the community;
- 25 (c) *Ecotourism* refers to a form of sustainable tourism within a natural area
26 where community participation, protection and management of natural
27 resources, cultural and indigenous knowledge and practices, environmental
28 education and ethics, as well as economic benefits are fostered and pursued for
29 the enrichment of host communities and the satisfaction of the visitors; and,
- 30 (d) *Responsible Ecotourism* refers to a form of sustainable tourism in which
31 both the tourism sector and the tourists take responsibility in the protection,
32 respect, and conservation of the natural environment and the local culture and
33 ways of life, and where community participation as well as benefits are fostered
34 and pursued for the well-being of the local people and visitors.

35 **SEC. 5. Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape.** — The
36 Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape (NAPSL) located in the

1 municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao in the Province of
2 Antique is hereby declared as a responsible, community-based ecotourism zone.
3 It shall be accorded priority development by the DOT, DENR, Department of
4 Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise
5 Zone Authority (TIEZA) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations
6 governing the development of ecotourism zones provided in the national
7 ecotourism strategy jointly issued by the DENR and DOT.

8 **SEC. 6. Scope and Coverage.** – The NAPSL, which shall cover an area of
9 364,453.5395 hectares, shall be composed of the following:

- 10 a) The wetland area located in Brgy. Mag-aba, Pandan, Antique composed
11 of mangrove forest and estuarine river ecosystem with an area of
12 21,095 hectares, located in Brgy. Mag-aba, Pandan, Antique;
13 b) The seas, islet and sandbar ecosystem covering the municipalities of
14 Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao with an area of
15 213,556.26 hectares; and,
16 c) The Pandan Bay with an area of 150,876.25 hectares.

17 The corresponding boundaries shall be as follows:

18 A. The wetland area

19 Beginning at point marked TP - 1, being N 81° 21' W, 27,787.09 meters from
20 reference BLLM 1, PLS 1107, Northern Antique Protected Seascape and
21 Landscape;

22	thence	S 75° 30' E	3,242.00	meters to corner 2;
23	thence	N 81° 34' E	3,723.95	meters to corner 3;
24	thence	S 88° 11' E	4,292.00	meters to corner 4;
25	thence	S 70° 26' E	7,759.31	meters to corner 5;
26	thence	S 83° 19' E	3,489.57	meters to corner 6;
27	thence	N 78° 36' E	2,873.78	meters to corner 7;
28	thence	S 40° 19' E	4,925.65	meters to corner 8;
29	thence	S 05° 55' W	14,342.35	meters to corner 9;
30	thence	S 12° 57' W	4,208.77	meters to corner 10;
31	thence	S 20° 40' W	8,176.30	meters to corner 11;
32	thence	S 26° 28' E	2,100.83	meters to corner 12;
33	thence	S 15° 07' W	3,828.16	meters to corner 13;
34	thence	S 14° 11' E	4,552.10	meters to corner 14;
35	thence	S 07° 49' W	2,472.18	meters to corner 15;
36	thence	N 89° 51' W	17,369.06	meters to corner 16;

1	thence	S 19° 13' W	3,169.16	meters to corner 17;
2	thence	S 47° 56' W	18,926.52	meters to corner 18;
3	thence	S 61° 51' W	6,834.81	meters to corner 19;
4	thence	S 88° 08' W	6,837.37	meters to corner 20;
5	thence	N 65° 37' W	6,817.66	meters to corner 21;
6	thence	N 40° 46' W	6,141.86	meters to corner 22;
7	thence	N 16° 52' W	6,841.57	meters to corner 23;
8	thence	N 09° 23' E	6,833.87	meters to corner 24;
9	thence	N 03° 19' E	32,126.72	meters to corner 25;
10	thence	N 31° 53' E	4,886.87	meters to corner 26;
11	thence	N 50° 38' E	3,792.90	meters to corner 27;
12	thence	N 66° 15' E	6,070.27	meters to corner 28;
13	thence	N 83° 30' E	20,309.49	meters to corner 1.

14 to the point of beginning containing an area of two hundred ninety-nine
15 thousand nine hundred forty-two and 542/100 (299,942.542) hectares, more or
16 less.

17 B. Seas, Islets and Sandbar Ecosystem

18 Beginning at point marked TP - 1, being S 86° 08' W, 33,925.26 meters from
19 reference BLLM 1, PLS 1107, Northern Antique Protected Seascape and
20 Landscape;

21	thence	S 44° 36' W	14,735.43	meters to corner 2;
22	thence	S 30° 12' E	1,957.43	meters to corner 3;
23	thence	S 57° 20' E	24,725.84	meters to corner 4;
24	thence	N 81° 25' E	4,111.89	meters to corner 5;
25	thence	S 52° 51' E	11,911.68	meters to corner 6;
26	thence	N 84° 22' E	3,904.27	meters to corner 7;
27	thence	S 14° 11' E	4,552.10	meters to corner 8;
28	thence	S 07° 49' W	2,472.18	meters to corner 9;
29	thence	N 89° 51' W	17,369.06	meters to corner 10;
30	thence	S 19° 13' W	3,169.16	meters to corner 11;
31	thence	S 47° 56' W	18,926.52	meters to corner 12;
32	thence	S 61° 51' W	6,834.81	meters to corner 13;
33	thence	S 88° 08' W	6,837.37	meters to corner 14;
34	thence	N 65° 37' W	6,817.66	meters to corner 15;
35	thence	N 35° 22' W	6,930.04	meters to corner 16;
36	thence	N 19° 42' W	5,891.75	meters to corner 17;

1 thence N 09° 23' E 6,833.87 meters to corner 18;
 2 thence N 03° 19' E 32,126.72 meters to corner 19;
 3 thence N 31° 53' E 4,886.87 meters to corner 20;
 4 thence N 50° 38' E 3,792.90 meters to corner 21;
 5 thence N 66° 15' E 6,070.27 meters to corner 22;
 6 thence N 88° 45' E 5,636.26 meters to corner 23;
 7 thence S 62° 17' E 9,225.27 meters to corner 1.

8 to the point of beginning containing an area of one hundred eighty-six thousand
 9 forty-two and 676/100 (186,042.676) hectares, more or less.

10 C. Pandan Bay

11 Beginning at point marked TP - 1, being N 81° 21' W, 27,787.09 meters from
 12 reference BLLM 1, PLS 1107, Northern Antique Protected Seascape and
 13 Landscape;

14 thence S 75° 30' E 3,242.00 meters to corner 2;
 15 thence N 81° 34' E 3,723.95 meters to corner 3;
 16 thence S 88° 11' E 4,292.00 meters to corner 4;
 17 thence S 70° 26' E 7,759.31 meters to corner 5;
 18 thence S 83° 19' E 3,489.57 meters to corner 6;
 19 thence N 78° 36' E 2,873.78 meters to corner 7;
 20 thence S 40° 19' E 4,925.65 meters to corner 8;
 21 thence S 05° 55' W 14,342.35 meters to corner 9;
 22 thence S 12° 57' W 4,208.77 meters to corner 10;
 23 thence S 20° 40' W 8,176.30 meters to corner 11;
 24 thence S 26° 28' E 2,100.83 meters to corner 12;
 25 thence S 15° 07' W 3,828.16 meters to corner 13;
 26 thence S 84° 22' W 3,904.27 meters to corner 14;
 27 thence N 52° 51' W 11,911.68 meters to corner 15;
 28 thence S 81° 25' W 4,111.89 meters to corner 16;
 29 thence N 57° 20' W 24,725.84 meters to corner 17;
 30 thence N 30° 12' W 1,957.43 meters to corner 18;
 31 thence N 44° 36' E 23,817.36 meters to corner 1.

32 to the point of beginning containing an area of one hundred nine thousand sixty-
 33 seven and 405/100 (109,067.405) hectares, more or less.

34 The metes and bounds of NAPSL shall be indicated on maps and/or
 35 nautical charts. Any modification of the coverage of this Act due to such factors
 36 as changing ecological situation, new scientific or archaeological findings, or

1 discovery of traditional boundaries not previously taken into account shall be
2 made through an act of Congress, after consultation with the concerned
3 government agencies.

4 **SEC. 7. *Establishment of a Buffer Zone.*** – There shall also be established
5 buffer zones surrounding the NAPSL for the purpose of providing extra protection
6 around the area, where restrictions shall apply and communities can assist in
7 repealing threats to the NAPSL. Such buffer zones shall be managed according to
8 the ecotourism and management plan formulated pursuant to this Act.

9 Such buffer zone shall be included in the ecotourism development and
10 management plan of the NASPL: *Provided*, That no build up or reclamation
11 detrimental to the diversity in the NASPL shall be done within the designated
12 buffer zone. The Council shall exercise its authority over the designated buffer
13 zone.

14 **SEC. 8. *Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism***
15 ***Development and Management Plan.*** – The DENR and the DOT, in coordination
16 with the DPWH and TIEZA, shall jointly assist the Northern Antique Protected
17 Seascape and Landscape Development Council, herein created, in the
18 formulation of the ecotourism development and management plan for the NAPSL
19 that shall be complemented by a set of guidelines for a responsible, community-
20 based ecotourism. The tourism development and management plan shall ensure
21 the preservation of the seascapes and landscapes and shall include the following
22 components:

- 23 (a) Carrying capacity of the seascapes and landscapes and its endemic
24 and migratory birds species;
- 25 (b) Specific site assessment, including terrestrial, underwater (biotic
26 and abiotic), oceanographic and other scientific site assessment;
- 27 (c) Identification of strategic priorities;
- 28 (d) Product development for local income generation;
- 29 (e) Capacity building for the local community to allow residents therein
30 to ably manage economically viable and responsible, community-
31 based ecotourism business enterprises;
- 32 (f) Support for the formulation of local groups and networks, including
33 the marketing and pricing of products;
- 34 (g) Marketing strategies that reflect the natural, social and
35 environmental integrity of the NAPSL;
- 36 (h) Regular water quality monitoring of the seascapes;

- 1 (i) Management and maintenance of the mangrove areas; and
2 (j) Proper solid waste management in accordance with Republic Act
3 No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act; and,
4 (k) Proper use, protection, preservation and revival of water resources
5 and implementation of a proper sewerage system in accordance
6 with Republic Act No. 9275, or the Clean Water Act;

7 The process of developing the ecotourism development and management
8 plan for the NAPSL shall be participatory, from the bottom up, with the
9 framework to be provided by the DOT and DENR in consultation with the
10 Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Protected Area
11 Management Board herein created.

12 In order to protect the mangroves and forest in NAPSL, the foreshore
13 areas shall not be leased to any private entity; *Provided*, That Special
14 Agreements on Protected Area (SAPA) may be availed upon Protected Area and
15 Management Board (PAMB) Clearance.

16 **SEC. 9.** *Formation of the Northern Antique Protected Seascape and*
17 *Landscape Protected Area Management Board.* - A multi-sectoral board to be
18 known as the "Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Protected
19 Area Management Board," hereinafter referred to as the Board, shall be created.
20 It shall be composed of the following members:

- 21 (a) The Mayors of the municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi and
22 Tibiao shall take turns serving as Chairperson;
23 (b) The heads of the Municipal Tourism Offices of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste,
24 Culasi and Tibiao shall take turns serving as Vice-chairpersons;
25 (c) The heads of the Municipal Environmental and Natural Resources Office of
26 Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi and Tibiao shall likewise take turns serving as
27 member;
28 (d) The Association of Barangay Chairmen (ABC) Presidents of the barangays
29 of the municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi and Tibiao shall also
30 serve alternately;
31 (e) The Chairmen of the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
32 Management Councils of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi and Tibiao shall also
33 serve alternately;

34 *Provided*, That representatives from the LGUs as indicated in sub-sections
35 (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) above, coming from the same municipality, shall all
36 together serve for the same time period;

- 1 (f) The Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Officer of
2 the Province of Antique;
- 3 (g) The Director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB);
- 4 (h) The Chief Operating Officer of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise
5 Zone Authority (TIEZA);
- 6 (i) The Regional Director of DOT-Region 6;
- 7 (j) The Regional Director of DENR-Region 6;
- 8 (k) The Regional Director of DPWH-Region 6;
- 9 (l) The DENR-Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO)
10 of Antique;
- 11 (m) One representative from an academic institution, preferably from a state
12 university or college in the Province of Antique, with proven track record in or
13 related to protected seascapes and landscapes management;
- 14 (n) One representative from the private sector, a resident of the Province of
15 Antique, who is distinguished in a profession or field of interest relevant to
16 protected seascapes and landscapes management; and,
- 17 (o) One representative from either a non-government organization (NGO) or
18 People's Organization (PO), duly accredited both by the DENR and the provincial
19 government of Antique. The NGO or PO represented should have been in
20 existence for at least five (5) years with a proven track record in or related to
21 seascapes and landscapes management.

22 The *ex-officio* members of the Board by virtue of their elective or
23 appointive government positions as specified in the immediately preceding
24 subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), and (l) shall serve for
25 the duration of their respective terms of office in their respective elective or
26 appointive government positions.

27 The members of the Board specified under subsections (m), (n), and (o)
28 of this section shall be elected by the *ex-officio* members of the Board in a
29 transparent and fair selection process. They shall each serve a term of three (3)
30 years and may be reappointed for another term.

31 The members of the Board shall serve without compensation, except for
32 the actual and necessary travelling and subsistence expenses incurred in the
33 performance of their duties, either in their attendance in meetings of the Board
34 or in connection with other official business authorized through a resolution of
35 the Board, subject to existing rules and regulations. Each member shall have the
36 full capacity and accountability for decisions binding to the member's sector.

1 The members of the Board duly elected or appointed prior to the
2 effectivity of this Act shall continue their term until the expiration of their term or
3 appointment. Thereafter, members of the Board shall be appointed in
4 accordance with the provisions of this Act.

5 A member of the Board may be removed for any of the following grounds:

- 6 (a) More than three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from regular
7 meetings of the Board;
8 (b) Commission of acts prejudicial to the development and management of
9 NAPSL as embodied in existing rules and regulations governing NAPSL;
10 (c) Disassociation from the office or organization being represented;
11 (d) Termination of relationship with the office or organization being
12 represented; or
13 (e) Conviction by final judgment of any criminal act.

14 The local government of the Province of Antique shall provide a
15 secretariat for the Board including the funding necessary to cover the expenses
16 for the performance of its official functions and activities.

17 **SEC. 10. *Functions and Responsibilities of the PAMB Council.*** – The PAMB
18 Council shall be responsible for the following:

- 19 (a) Formulation and the implementation of the ecotourism development and
20 management plan in consultation with the local residents, businesses, and other
21 stakeholders;
22 (b) Assessment and evaluation of the potential impact of the development to
23 the environmental safety and well-being of the seascapes and landscapes,
24 communities, and enterprises;
25 (c) Provision of technical and financial assistance to the communities within
26 the seascapes and landscapes;
27 (d) Implementation of a monitoring plan for the water birds and their habitats
28 to ensure their presence and well-being in NAPSL;
29 (e) Formulation of the rules and regulations in relation to the maintenance
30 and security of the ecotourism areas; and
31 (f) Performance of other functions as may be necessary to carry out the
32 objectives of this Act.

33 **SEC. 11. *Formulation of Guidelines and Standards.*** – The DENR and DOT
34 shall assist the PAMB Council in the formulation of local ecotourism standards
35 ensuring that environmental protection is integrated in the development and
36 management of the ecotourism plans.

1 The guidelines and standards shall:

- 2 (a) Raise the capacity of all stakeholders and ensure that best practices are
3 followed;
- 4 (b) Ensure optimal use of water and energy;
- 5 (c) Reduce waste and pollution through the encouragement of recycling and
6 other environmentally-sound waste management reduction and disposal
7 schemes;
- 8 (d) Prevent vandalism in the facilities of the eco-park; and
- 9 (e) Encourage the use of local produce and services, and support the
10 employment of local people.

11 **SEC. 12. *Coordination with National Agencies.*** - The DENR and the DOT
12 shall closely coordinate with the Council, as well as the relevant regional offices
13 of the DPWH, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of
14 Transportation (DOTr), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Education
15 (DepEd), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of the Interior
16 and Local Government (DILG), Philippine National Police (PNP), Maritime
17 Industry Authority (MARINA) and other line agencies of the government in the
18 implementation of this Act.

19 **SEC. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** — Within thirty (30) days
20 from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR and the DOT, in consultation with the
21 Council, other concerned government agencies, and stakeholders, shall
22 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper and effective
23 implementation of this Act.

24 **SEC. 14. *Appropriations.*** — The Secretaries of the DENR, DOT, and
25 DPWH and the Chief Operating Officer of TIEZA shall include in their subsidy
26 programs, support for the capital outlay requirements of the NAPSL for the
27 preliminary implementation of this Act and enhancement of the facilities of the
28 ecotourism zone which shall be taken from the budget of their respective
29 agencies for the current fiscal year.

30 The budgetary allocations for the succeeding years shall be included in the
31 General Appropriations Act, subject to government audit.

32 **SEC. 15. *Separability Clause.*** — If, for any reason, any provision of this
33 Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not
34 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

1 **SEC. 16. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders,
2 proclamation and administrative regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent
3 herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

4 **SEC. 17. Effectivity Clause.** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
5 after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation
6 or in the *Official Gazette*.

Approved,