



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors**
Legal Affairs Service
Policy and Planning Service
Climate Change Service

The Bureau Directors
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Land Management Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau

The Regional Executive Director
DENR Region VI

The Administrator
National Mapping and Resource Information Authority

The Officer-in-Charge
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **INVITATION AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS TO THE PUBLIC HEARING ON SENATE BILL NO. 238 – AN ACT DECLARING THE NORTHERN ANTIQUE PROTECTED SEASCAPE AND LANDSCAPE ECOTOURISM ZONE 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 THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES FROM THE SENATE SUB-COMMITTEE ON TOURISM**

DATE : 19 May 2023

In reference to the electronic mail received by our Office on the same date, the Committee on Tourism's Sub-Committee on Senate Bill Nos. 238, 1166, 1615, and Proposed Senate Resolution 472, will hold the 2nd Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting on **23 May 2023, Tuesday, 10:00 AM** at the Sen. Tolentino Room, 2nd Floor, Senate of the Philippines and via Webex platform to discuss *Senate Bill No. 238 – AN ACT DECLARING THE NORTHERN ANTIQUE PROTECTED SEASCAPE AND LANDSCAPE ECOTOURISM ZONE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LIBERTAD, PANDAN, SEBASTE, CULASI AND TIBIAO IN THE PROVINCE OF*

ANTIQUÉ 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 THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES by Sen. Loren Legarda.

In this regard, we would like to invite you or your representative to attend the hearing, and to remind those who have not yet submitted their comments/recommendations, we respectfully follow up on the said request in preparation for the upcoming public hearing, as requested by the Committee. Kindly submit your comments on or before 22 May 2023, 5:00 PM via email at denrlo@denr.gov.ph. Further, kindly inform us of the name/s of the representative/s from your office who will participate in the meeting so we may include him/her/them as resource person/s.

Attached herewith is a copy of the letter invitation and matrix.


ROMIROSE B. PADIN

cc: Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs
Undersecretary for Integrated Environmental Science



Republic of the Philippines
Senate

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SENATE BILL NOS. 238, 1166, 1615, AND
PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION 472

Joint with the Committees on Environment, Natural Resources and
Climate Change; and Finance

May 19, 2023

HON. MA. ANTONIA YULO-LOYZAGA

Secretary

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

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denrlo@denr.gov.ph

Dear SEC. YULO-LOYZAGA:

The Committee on Tourism's *Sub-Committee on Senate Bill Nos. 238, 1166, 1615, and Proposed Senate Resolution 472*, will hold a **2nd Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting** on **May 23, 2023, Tuesday, 10 am** at the **Sen. Tolentino Room, 2nd Floor, Senate of the Philippines** to discuss **Senate Bill No. 238 – 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**(by Sen. Legarda)

In this regard, the Subcommittee would like to invite your **authorized representative** to join us in this hybrid meeting for your comments and inputs. This is

also to remind those who have not yet submitted their comments, to do so using the matrix attached to this letter.

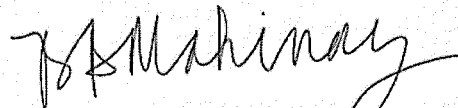
As part of the Senate's health and safety protocols, the following guidelines are implemented for resource persons who will physically attend Committee Hearings and Meetings:

- 1.) Name of resource persons must be submitted to the Committee Secretariat at least one (1) day before the Hearing/Meeting for proper endorsement to the office of the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms. Those who are not on the list will be denied entry; and*
- 2.) Before entry, resource persons should present to the Medical staff on duty at the Senate lobby proof of full vaccination (must have at least completed the primary dose series)*

For those participating online, the Committee will send the Cisco Webex link to your email, an hour before the start of the meeting. For further assistance, you may contact the undersigned Committee Secretary at Viber 09178669287 or our support staff, Mr. Japit Tijap at 09194873335.

Once again, your presence and participation in this technical working group meeting will be greatly appreciated.

**For the SUBCOMMITTEE Chair:
SEN. SONNY ANGARA**


**BERNADINE B. MAHINAY
Committee Secretary**

SBN 238 - Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2022 (Sen. Legarda)

<p align="center">Draft Committee Report (NASLEZ) Northern Antique Ecotourism Act of 2022</p>	<p align="center">COMMENTS</p>
<p align="center">AN ACT</p> <p align="center">DECLARING THE NORTHERN ANTIQUE SEASCAPE AND LANDSCAPE ECOTOURISM ZONE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LIBERTAD, PANDAN, SEBASTE, CULASI, AND TIBIAO IN THE PROVINCE OF ANTIQUE 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</p>	
<p><i>Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:</i></p>	
<p>Section 1. <i>Short Title.</i> – This Act shall be known as the “<i>Northern Antique Ecotourism Act of 2022</i>”.</p>	
<p>Sec. 2. <i>Declaration of Policy.</i> - The State is mandated to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable, and equitable for the local community. Towards this end, the Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone (NASLEZ) is hereby declared a special eco-tourism zone, where the</p>	

SBN 238 - Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2022 (Sen. Legarda)

<p>responsible and sustainable use of the natural resources therein is encouraged and will be strictly implemented.</p>	
<p>Sec. 3. <i>Objectives.</i> - Pursuant to the above declaration of policy, the State shall endeavor to accomplish the following:</p>	
<p>(a) Develop and promote responsible, community-based ecological tourism as the core management strategy in the development of the NASLEZ;</p>	
<p>(b) Ensure the conservation of the biodiversity and the preservation of the said ecotourism site;</p>	
<p>(c) Develop ecotourism products and programs that will generate employment and livelihood for the local residents concerned, consistent with the preservation and maintenance of the natural resources;</p>	
<p>(d) Guarantee that the financial and economic benefits of the tourism industry are equitably shared by, and distributed among the local residents concerned by giving preference and support to community and home-based tourism enterprises, such as, but not limited to, resorts and homestays, micro and small businesses including restaurants, food and fruit stands, and other similar tourism-oriented industries and businesses;</p>	
<p>(e) Ensure that the quality of local ecotourism programs and activities are educational and enriching for tourists and visitors through the provision</p>	

SBN 238 - Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2022 (Sen. Legarda)

<p>of orientation, educational, and tour programs by local tour operators, non-government organizations (NGOs), the concerned Local Government Units (LGUs), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Department of Tourism (DOT); and,</p>	
<p>(f) Guarantee that in the development and promotion of the local tourism industry, the concerned Local Government Units (LGUs) shall ensure that the needs of the local residents for adequate water supply, food, energy, transportation, and local construction materials are first secured and met.</p>	
<p><i>Sec. 4. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:</i></p>	
<p>(a) <i>Buffer Zone</i> refers to an identified area outside the boundaries of and immediately adjacent to the NASLEZ that needs special development control in order to avoid or minimize any threat or harm to the NASLEZ;</p>	
<p>(b) <i>Community-Based Ecotourism</i> refers to a form of tourism where the local community and its residents have substantial control and involvement in the development and management of the local tourism industry and a greater portion of the economic gains remain within the community;</p>	
<p>(c) <i>Ecotourism</i> refers to a form of sustainable tourism within a natural area where community participation, protection and management of natural resources, cultural and indigenous knowledge and practices,</p>	

SBN 238 - Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2022 (Sen. Legarda)

<p>environmental education, and ethics, as well as economic benefits are fostered and pursued for the enrichment of host communities and the satisfaction of the visitors;</p>	
<p>(d) <i>Responsible Ecotourism</i> refers to a form of sustainable tourism in which both the tourism sector and the tourists take responsibility for the protection, respect, and conservation of the natural environment and the local culture and ways of life, and where community participation, as well as benefits, are fostered and pursued for the well-being of the local people and visitors.</p>	
<p><i>Sec. 5. Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone. — The Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone (NASLEZ) located in the municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao in the Province of Antique is hereby declared a responsible, community-based ecotourism zone. It shall be accorded priority development by the DOT, DENR, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones provided in the national ecotourism strategy jointly issued by the DENR and DOT and the benefits provided by the Tourism Act of 2009 (RA 9093).</i></p>	

SBN 238 - Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2022 (Sen. Legarda)

<p>Sec. 6. <i>Scope and Coverage.</i> – The NASLEZ, which shall cover an area of 364,453.5395 hectares, shall be composed of the following:</p>	
<p>a) The wetland area located in Brgy. Mag-aba, Pandan, Antique composed of mangrove forest and estuarine river ecosystem with an area of 21,095 hectares, located in Brgy. Mag-aba, Pandan Antique;</p>	
<p>b) The seas, islet, and sandbar ecosystem covering the municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao with an area of 213,556.26 hectares; and,</p>	
<p>c) Pandan Bay with an area of 150,876.25 hectares.</p>	
<p>The corresponding boundaries shall be as follows:</p>	
<p>A. The wetland area Beginning at point marked TP - 1, being N 81° 21' W, 27,787.09 meters from reference BLLM 1, PLS 1107, Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone;</p>	
<p>thence S 75° 30' E 3,242.00 meters to corner 2; thence N 81° 34' E 3,723.95 meters to corner 3 thence S 88° 11' E 4,292.00 meters to corner 4 thence S 70° 26' E 7,759.31 meters to corner 5 thence S 83° 19' E 3,489.57 meters to corner 6</p>	

SBN 238 - Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2022 (Sen. Legarda)

thence	N 78° 36' E	2,873.78	meters to corner 7
thence	S 40° 19' E	4,925.65	meters to corner 8
thence	S 05° 55' W	14,342.35	meters to corner 9
thence	S 12° 57' W	4,208.77	meters to corner 10
thence	S 20° 40' W	8,176.30	meters to corner 11
thence	S 26° 28' E	2,100.83	meters to corner 12
thence	S 15° 07' W	3,828.16	meters to corner 13
thence	S 14° 11' E	4,552.10	meters to corner 14
thence	S 07° 49' W	2,472.18	meters to corner 15
thence	N 89° 51' W	17,369.06	meters to corner 16
thence	S 19° 13' W	3,169.16	meters to corner 17
thence	S 47° 56' W	18,926.52	meters to corner 18
thence	S 61° 51' W	6,834.81	meters to corner 19
thence	S 88° 08' W	6,837.37	meters to corner 20
thence	N 65° 37' W	6,817.66	meters to corner 21
thence	N 40° 46' W	6,141.86	meters to corner 22
thence	N 16° 52' W	6,841.57	meters to corner 23
thence	N 09° 23' E	6,833.87	meters to corner 24
thence	N 03° 19' E	32,126.72	meters to corner 25
thence	N 31° 53' E	4,886.87	meters to corner 26

SBN 238 - Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2022 (Sen. Legarda)

<p>thence N 50° 38' E 3,792.90 meters to corner 27</p> <p>thence N 66° 15' E 6,070.27 meters to corner 28</p> <p>thence N 83° 30' E 20,309.49 meters to corner 1.</p>	
<p>to the point of beginning containing an area of two hundred ninety-nine thousand nine hundred forty two and 542/100 (299,942.542) hectares, more or less.</p>	
<p>B. Seas, Islets, and Sandbar Ecosystem</p> <p>Beginning at point marked TP - 1, being S 86° 08' W, 33,925.26 meters from reference BLLM 1, PLS 1107, Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone;</p>	
<p>thence S 44° 36' W 14,735.43 meters to corner 2;</p> <p>thence S 30° 12' E 1,957.43 meters to corner 3;</p> <p>thence S 57° 20' E 24,725.84 meters to corner 4;</p> <p>thence N 81° 25' E 4,111.89 meters to corner 5;</p> <p>thence S 52° 51' E 11,911.68 meters to corner 6;</p> <p>thence N 84° 22' E 3,904.27 meters to corner 7;</p> <p>thence S 14° 11' E 4,552.10 meters to corner 8;</p> <p>thence S 07° 49' W 2,472.18 meters to corner 9;</p> <p>thence N 89° 51' W 17,369.06 meters to corner 10;</p> <p>thence S 19° 13' W 3,169.16 meters to corner 11;</p>	

SBN 238 - Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2022 (Sen. Legarda)

thence	S 47° 56' W	18,926.52	meters to corner 12;	
thence	S 61° 51' W	6,834.81	meters to corner 13;	
thence	S 88° 08' W	6,837.37	meters to corner 14;	
thence	N 65° 37' W	6,817.66	meters to corner 15;	
thence	N 35° 22' W	6,930.04	meters to corner 16;	
thence	N 19° 42' W	5,891.75	meters to corner 17;	
thence	N 09° 23' E	6,833.87	meters to corner 18;	
thence	N 03° 19' E	32,126.72	meters to corner 19;	
thence	N 31° 53' E	4,886.87	meters to corner 20;	
thence	N 50° 38' E	3,792.90	meters to corner 21;	
thence	N 66° 15' E	6,070.27	meters to corner 22;	
thence	N 88° 45' E	5,636.26	meters to corner 23;	
thence	S 62° 17' E	9,225.27	meters to corner 1.	
to the point of beginning containing an area of one hundred eighty-six thousand forty two hundred and 676/100 (186,042.676) hectares, more or less.				
C. Pandan Bay				

SBN 238 - Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2022 (Sen. Legarda)

Beginning at point marked TP - 1, being N 81° 21' W, 27,787.09 meters from reference BLLM 1, PLS 1107, Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone;			
thence	S 75° 30' E	3,242.00	meters to corner 2;
thence	N 81° 34' E	3,723.95	meters to corner 3;
thence	S 88° 11' E	4,292.00	meters to corner 4;
thence	S 70° 26' E	7,759.31	meters to corner 5;
thence	S 83° 19' E	3,489.57	meters to corner 6;
thence	N 78° 36' E	2,873.78	meters to corner 7;
thence	S 40° 19' E	4,925.65	meters to corner 8;
thence	S 05° 55' W	14,342.35	meters to corner 9;
thence	S 12° 57' W	4,208.77	meters to corner 10;
thence	S 20° 40' W	8,176.30	meters to corner 11;
thence	S 26° 28' E	2,100.83	meters to corner 12;
thence	S 15° 07' W	3,828.16	meters to corner 13;
thence	S 84° 22' W	3,904.27	meters to corner 14;
thence	N 52° 51' W	11,911.68	meters to corner 15;
thence	S 81° 25' W	4,111.89	meters to corner 16;
thence	N 57° 20' W	24,725.84	meters to corner 17;
thence	N 30° 12' W	1,957.43	meters to corner 18;

SBN 238 - Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2022 (Sen. Legarda)

<p>thence N 44° 36' E 23,817.36 meters to corner 1.</p>	
<p>to the point of beginning containing an area of one hundred nine thousand sixty seven hundred and 405/100 (109,067.405) hectares, more or less.</p>	
<p>The metes and bounds of NASLEZ shall be indicated on maps and/or nautical charts. Any modification of the coverage of this Act due to such factors as changing ecological situation, new scientific or archaeological findings, or discovery of traditional boundaries not previously taken into account shall be made through an act of Congress, after consultation with the concerned government agencies.</p>	
<p><i>Sec. 7. Establishment of a Buffer Zone.</i> – There shall also be an established buffer zones surrounding the NASLEZ to provide extra protection around the area, where restrictions shall apply and communities can assist in repealing threats to the NASLEZ. Such buffer zones shall be managed according to the ecotourism and management plan formulated under this Act.</p> <p>Such buffer zone shall be included in the ecotourism development and management plan of the NASLEZ; Provided, that no build-up or reclamation detrimental to the diversity in the NASLEZ shall be done within the designated buffer zone. The Council shall exercise its authority over the designated buffer zone.</p>	

SBN 238 - Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2022 (Sen. Legarda)

<p>Sec. 8. <i>Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone Management Plan.</i> – The DENR and the DOT, in coordination with the DPWH and TIEZA, shall jointly assist the Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone Development Council, herein created, in the formulation of the ecotourism development and management plan for the NASLEZ that shall be complemented by a set of guidelines for responsible, community-based ecotourism. The tourism development and management plan shall ensure the preservation of the seascapes and landscapes and shall include the following components:</p>	
<p>(a) Carrying capacity of the seascapes and landscapes and its endemic and migratory birds species;</p>	
<p>(b) Specific site assessment, including terrestrial, underwater (biotic and abiotic), oceanographic, and other scientific site assessments;</p>	
<p>(c) Identification of strategic priorities;</p>	
<p>(d) Product development for local income generation;</p>	
<p>(e) Capacity building for the local community to allow residents therein to ably manage economically viable and responsible, community-based ecotourism business enterprises;</p>	

SBN 238 - Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2022 (Sen. Legarda)

<p>(f) Support for the formulation of local groups and networks, including the marketing and pricing of products;</p>	
<p>(g) Marketing strategies that reflect the natural, social, and environmental integrity of the NASLEZ;</p>	
<p>(h) Regular water quality monitoring of the seascapes;</p>	
<p>(i) Management and maintenance of the mangrove areas; and</p>	
<p>(j) Proper solid waste management in accordance with Republic Act No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act; and,</p>	
<p>(k) Proper use, protection, preservation, and revival of water resources and implementation of a proper sewerage system in accordance with Republic Act No. 9275, or the Clean Water Act;</p>	
<p>The process of developing the ecotourism development and management plan for the NASLEZ shall be participatory, from the bottom up, with the framework to be provided by the DOT and DENR in consultation with the Northern Antique Tourism Management Zone Council herein created.</p>	

SBN 238 - Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2022 (Sen. Legarda)

<p>To protect the mangroves and forest in NASLEZ, the foreshore areas shall not be leased to any private entity Provided that sustainable use rental may be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Council;</p>	
<p>Sec. 9. <i>Formation of the Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone Council.</i> - A multi-sectoral council to be known as the "Northern Antique Seascape and Landscape Ecotourism Zone Council", hereinafter referred to as the Council, shall be created. It shall be composed of the following members:</p>	
<p>a. The Mayors of the municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao shall take turns serving as Chairperson;</p>	
<p>b. The heads of the Municipal Tourism Offices of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao shall take turns serving as Vice-chairpersons;</p>	
<p>c. The heads of the Municipal Environmental and Natural Resources Office of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao shall likewise take turns serving as member;</p>	
<p>d. The Association of Barangay Chairmen (ABC) Presidents of the barangays of the municipalities of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao shall also serve alternately;</p>	

SBN 238 - Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2022 (Sen. Legarda)

<p>e. The Chairmen of the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils of Libertad, Pandan, Sebaste, Culasi, and Tibiao shall also serve alternately;</p> <p>Provided, That representatives from the LGUs as indicated in sub-sections (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) above, coming from the same municipality, shall all together serve for the same period;</p>	
<p>f. The Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Officer of the Province of Antique;</p>	
<p>g. The Director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB);</p>	
<p>h. The Chief Operating Officer of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA);</p>	
<p>i. The Regional Director of DOT-Region 6;</p>	
<p>j. The Regional Director of DENR-Region 6;</p>	
<p>k. The Regional Director of DPWH-Region 6;</p>	
<p>l. The DENR-Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) of Antique;</p>	

SBN 238 - Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2022 (Sen. Legarda)

<p>m. One representative from an academic institution, preferably from a state university or college in the Province of Antique, with proven track record in or related to protected seascapes and landscapes management;</p>	
<p>n. One representative from the private sector, a resident of the Province of Antique, who is distinguished in a profession or field of interest relevant to protected seascapes and landscapes management; and,</p>	
<p>o. One representative from either a non-government organization (NGO) or People’s Organization (PO), duly accredited both by the DENR and the provincial government of Antique. The NGO or PO represented should have been in existence for at least five (5) years with a proven track record in or related to seascapes and landscapes management.</p>	
<p>The <i>ex-officio</i> members of the Council by virtue of their elective or appointive government positions as specified in the immediately preceding subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), and (l) shall serve for the duration of their respective terms of office in their respective elective or appointive government positions.</p> <p>The members of the Council specified under subsections (m), (n), and (o) of this section shall be elected by the <i>ex-officio</i> members of the Council in a transparent</p>	

SBN 238 - Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2022 (Sen. Legarda)

<p>and fair selection process. They shall each serve a term of three (3) years and may be reappointed for another term.</p> <p>The members of the Council shall serve without compensation, except for the actual and necessary traveling and subsistence expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, either in their attendance in meetings of the Council or in connection with other official business authorized through a resolution of the Council, subject to existing rules and regulations. Each member shall have the full capacity and accountability for decisions binding to the member's sector. The members of the Council duly elected or appointed prior to the effectivity of this Act shall continue their term until the expiration of their term or appointment. Thereafter, members of the Council shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Act.</p>	
<p>A member of the Council may be removed for any of the following grounds:</p>	
<p>(a) More than three (3) consecutive unexcused absences from regular meetings of the Council;</p>	
<p>(b) Commission of acts prejudicial to the development and management of NASLEZ as embodied in existing rules and regulations governing NASLEZ;</p>	
<p>(c) Disassociation from the office or organization being represented;</p>	

SBN 238 - Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2022 (Sen. Legarda)

(d) Termination of relationship with the office or organization being represented; or	
(e) Conviction by final judgment of any criminal act.	
The local government of the Province of Antique shall provide a secretariat for the Council including the funding necessary to cover the expenses for the performance of its official functions and activities.	
Sec. 10. <i>Functions and Responsibilities of the NASLEZ Council.</i> – The Council shall be responsible for the following:	
(a) Formulation and the implementation of the ecotourism development and management plan in consultation with the local residents, businesses, and other stakeholders;	
(b) Assessment and evaluation of the potential impact of the development on the environmental safety and well-being of the seascapes and landscapes, communities, and enterprises;	
(c) Provision of technical and financial assistance to the communities within the seascapes and landscapes;	
(d) Implementation of a monitoring plan for the water birds and their habitats to ensure their presence and well-being in NASLEZ;	
(e) Formulation of the rules and regulations in relation to the maintenance and security of the ecotourism areas; and	

SBN 238 - Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2022 (Sen. Legarda)

<p>(f) Performance of other functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.</p>	
<p>Sec. 11. <i>Formulation of Guidelines and Standards.</i> – The DENR and DOT shall assist the Council in the formulation of local ecotourism standards ensuring that environmental protection is integrated into the development and management of the ecotourism plans.</p> <p>The guidelines and standards shall:</p>	
<p>(a) Raise the capacity of all stakeholders and ensure that best practices are followed;</p>	
<p>(b) Ensure optimal use of water and energy;</p>	
<p>(c) Reduce waste and pollution through the encouragement of recycling and other environmentally-sound waste management reduction and disposal schemes;</p>	
<p>(d) Prevent vandalism in the facilities of the eco-park; and</p>	
<p>(e) Encourage the use of local produce and services, and support the employment of local people.</p>	

SBN 238 - Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2022 (Sen. Legarda)

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

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

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

SBN 238 - Northern Antique Protected Seascape and Landscape Act of 2022 (Sen. Legarda)

<p>The budgetary allocations for the succeeding years shall be included in the General Appropriations Act, subject to a government audit.</p>	
<p>Sec. 15. <i>eNIPAS Process</i>. Nothing in this law shall be interpreted to mean cessation or interruption of the process for establishment as a protected area and the Council, the TIEZA and the DOT shall ensure that such process towards the eventual establishment of the Northern Antique Protected Seascapes and Landscapes shall be supported and the consultations therein made an integral part of their functions;</p>	
<p>Sec 16. <i>Separability Clause</i>. — If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.</p>	
<p>Sec. 17. <i>Repealing Clause</i>. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, and administrative regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.</p>	
<p>Sec. 18. <i>Effectivity Clause</i>. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation or in the <i>Official Gazette</i>.</p>	
<p><i>Approved,</i></p>	