

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 3868



Introduced by: HONORABLE ARNULF BRYAN "ARNIE" B. FUENTEBELLA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Quinalasag Group of Islands consisting of Quinalasag and Baticorao Islands in the Municipality of Lagonoy, and the Lamit Group of Islands consisting of Binagasbasan, Sumao, Bani, Sibabab, Piglocaban, Pighaluban and Monteverde Islands in the Municipality of Garchitorena, all in the Province of Camarines Sur as ecotourism zones to be known as Lagonoy Ecotourism Zone and Garchitorena Ecotourism Zone respectively.

The tourism industry in the Philippines has become an indispensable element of the national economy. This must therefore be harnessed as an engine of socio-economic growth and cultural affirmation to generate investment, foreign exchange and create employment opportunities for every Filipino. In the year 2018, employment in the tourism industry was estimated to reach 5.4 million or a 13.0 percent share of total employment in the country.

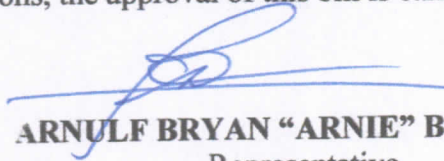
Our government therefore continues to promote the tourism industry by developing even remote areas in the countryside if only to attract local and tourists to propel the growth and development for local communities with tourism potentials.

The Fourth Legislative District of the Province of Camarines Sur consisting of the Municipalities of Tigaon, Sagnay, Goa, San Jose, Lagonoy, Tinambac, Presentacion, Caramoan, Garchitorena and Siruma is endowed with great natural resources, scenic beauty, pristine sands and beaches and other natural wonders of nature. It is sad to note, however, that among the areas in the District, only the Municipality of Caramoan has become a favorite tourist destination due mainly to the popularity of the World famous television series "*Survivor*", which had been held there numerous times already although there are other beautiful areas awaiting to be discovered, tapped and protected.

The enactment of this bill into law will effectively fast-track the construction and improvement of roads and bridges, and other infrastructure projects necessary to make the area accessible to all, especially the tourists.

The paramount objective of this bill is to maintain these natural areas used as ecotourism attractions with the attendant economic benefits to be generated for host communities and authorities managing these areas for conservation and tourist attraction purposes.

In view of the foregoing reasons, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



ARNULF BRYAN "ARNIE" B. FUENTEBELLA

Representative

Fourth District, Camarines Sur

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HOUSE BILL No. 3868

Introduced by: HONORABLE ARNULF BRYAN "ARNIE" B. FUENTEBELLA

AN ACT
DECLARING THE QUINALASAG GROUP OF ISLANDS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GARCHITORENA, AND THE LAMIT GROUP OF ISLANDS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAGONOY, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR AS ECOTOURISM ZONES

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

SECTION 1. The Quinalasag Group of Islands consisting of Quinalasag and Baticorao Islands in the Municipality of Lagonoy, and the Lamit Group of Islands consisting of Binagasbasan, Sumaoy, Bani, Sibabnan, Piglocaban, Pighaluban and Monteverde Islands in the Municipality of Garchitorena, all in the Province of Camarines Sur are hereby declared as ecotourism zones to be known as Lagonoy Ecotourism Zone and Garchitorena Ecotourism Zone respectively.

SEC. 2. The coordinates (in WGS'84) of the areas covered by Lagonoy and Garchitorena Ecotourism Zones are as follows:

1. *Quinalasag Group of Islands in the Municipality of Lagonoy*, which include the Quinalasag and Baticorao Islands, to wit:
 - a. 14°00.0'N, 123°35.0'E
 - b. 14°00.0'N, 123°41.0'E
 - c. 13°54.5'N, 123°41.0'E
 - d. 14°5.2'N, 123°35.0'E

2. *Lamit Group of Islands in the Municipality of Garchitorena*, which include Binagasbasan, Sumaoy, Bani, Sibabnan, Piglocaban, Pighaluban and Monteverde Islands, to wit:
 - a. 14°00.0'N, 123°30.0'E
 - b. 14°00.0'N, 123°35.0'E
 - c. 13°56.0'N, 123°35.5'E
 - d. 13°56.0'N, 123°30.0'E

SEC. 4. *Ecotourism Development Action Plan.* – The Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Authority (TIEZA), Partido Development Administration (PDA), Partido State University (PSU), and other concerned agencies of the government, shall update and consolidate all existing tourism development plans for the area and prepare an ecotourism development action plan consistent with the national tourism master plan. The plan shall include the construction, development and maintenance of facilities and infrastructure to enhance the tourism sites: *Provided, That* the interventions shall ensure biophysical conservation and cultural preservation in the area, while providing sustainable economic opportunities for the local communities.

SEC. 5. The DOT shall incorporate the ecotourism development action plan to the overall Philippine National Tourism Development Plan pursuant to Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as the “Tourism Act of 2009” and take immediate steps to implement the ecotourism development action plan and incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the ensuing calendar years.

The DOT and its concerned attached agencies shall also provide the necessary technical and financial assistance for the development of tourism infrastructure and the conduct of skills development in concerned local government units and their local communities while endeavoring, when practicable, to promote the tourism zones both domestically and internationally.

SEC. 6. The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), in coordination with PDA, and the office of the district representative of the 4th district of Camarines Sur, shall implement and fast-track the construction and improvement of roads, bridges and other infrastructure necessary in the development of the area and prioritize the same in its infrastructure program upon the effectivity of this Act,.

The DOT, DPWH and Department of Transportation (DOTR) shall promote the progressive development and aggressive spending in civil aviation, land and sea transportation infrastructures in the area to improve accessibility and connectivity of tourist destinations.

SEC. 7. The DOT, PDA, PSU and concerned local government units shall organize a forum by which the private sector, nongovernment organizations and other interest groups can interact with one another and create an atmosphere that shall encourage investment and develop a culture of tourism.

SEC. 8. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in consultation with PDA, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its proper implementation.

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

Approved,