

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila**

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session**

House Bill No. 6353



**Introduced by Representatives Ria Christina G. Fariñas
and Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare Saud Beach in the Municipality of Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, as a tourist destination.

When one thinks of Laoag City in Ilocos Norte, one of the tourist spots that comes to mind of is the Pagudpud Beach, a collective name for all the beaches situated in Pagudpud, which includes the Saud Beach. The Saud Beach is known for its two-kilometer fine and creamy white sand which frames the pristine water of the heart shaped bay. From the shore, one will be greeted with the beautiful Windmills of Bangui, the clear water of the South China Sea, and the rolling hills and fertile mountains of Ilocos Norte. The water bordered by Saud Beach is also home to different kinds of corals and fish. It is dubbed as the "Boracay of the Northern Philippines," however, the Saud Beach is what the Boracay beach used to look like in its prime and is even less commercialized. Tourists would normally bring their own food and cook there. Nevertheless, the beach has maintained its cleanliness given as there are no resto-bars or places that contribute to pollution.

The Saud Beach is one of the crown jewels of the Philippines. In 2008, the Melbourne Sunday Herald Sun newspaper named the beach as one of the top 10 beaches in Asia, along with other known beaches like the Bentota beach in Sri Lanka and the Yalong Bay in China, among others.

The Department of Tourism reported that from 2015 to 2018, there has been an increase number of tourists:

2015	2016	2017	2018
81,063	86,737	146,362	208,565

Given the data, it is assumed that more tourists are interested to visit the place. Thus, it is with the best interest of the government to ensure the sustainability and preservation of this natural beauty by providing a comprehensive development plan to ensure that the beach maintains its stature while promoting it to both local and foreign tourists.

In view of the foregoing, this bill aims to declare the Saud Beach as a tourist destination, mandating the Department of Tourism and its attached agencies, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways, and in consultation with the Municipality of Pagudpud, to come up with a development plan for the beach and its surroundings.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this proposed measure is earnestly sought for.



RIA CHRISTINA G. FARIÑAS



RUDYS CAESAR G. FARIÑAS I

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AN ACT

**DECLARING THE SAUD BEACH IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PAGUDPUD, PROVINCE OF
ILOCOS NORTE, AS A TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

Section 1. The Saud Beach in the Municipality of Pagudpud, Province of Ilocos Norte is hereby declared a tourist destination. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourist destinations.

Sec. 2. Within one (1) year from the approval of this Act, the DOT shall, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and other concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan involving the construction, installation, and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructures that enhance tourism in the area: *Provided, That the development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the area: Provided, further, That any activities and developments to be carried out in the area must conform with the concept of ecotourism as provided in the national ecotourism strategy*

jointly issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the DOT.

Sec. 3. The DOT and its attached agencies shall take immediate steps to implement the tourism development plan tailored to the needs of the Saud Beach in the Municipality of Pagudpud and shall incorporate the same in its tourism program for the ensuing calendar year. It shall also include the Saud Beach in all its national, regional, and local promotion programs.

Sec. 4. The Secretary of Tourism shall include in the DOT's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and from internally generated funds of the DOT.

Sec. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Tourism shall, in consultation with the Municipality of Pagudpud, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

Sec. 6. All laws, rules, regulations, proclamations, executive orders, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended accordingly.

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

Approved,