

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**Eighteenth Congress**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 5160**



---

**Introduced by Honorable Deogracias Victor 'DV' B. Savellano**

---

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Province of Ilocos Sur is blessed with a culture and history-rich heritage which has the potential of being among the country's top tourist destinations. Promoting tourism does not only generate additional revenues for the communities, it also provides an impetus for the conservation and protection of historic sites and natural wonders, as well as showcases the culture and traditions of its people.

The thrust of integrating tourism with local trade and industry is an ongoing campaign that simultaneously addresses concerns, interventions and the development of the these three (3) sectors. The Provincial Government of Ilocos Sur recognizes that a boost in tourism ultimately results in a boom in local trade and industry, especially for small to medium-scale enterprises.

Tourism for both Filipinos and foreigners has been identified as a priority project by the province because of its unique combination of diverse attractions, from heritage sites to beaches, from adventure sports to eco-tourism and new tourism fronts such as agricultural tourism, pilgrimage tourism and ethnic-tribal tourism.

Each town and city is encouraged to promote its own respective tourist attractions. Each site will also be refurbished in partnership with the local governments, and the private sector will be encouraged to develop facilities and services such as accommodations, convention centers, restaurants and local town products.

.This bill seeks to declare the Province of Ilocos Sur as a tourism development area in accordance with RA No. 9593, also known as the Tourism Act of 2009. Ilocos Sur can progress to become a first-class tourism area that will drive and propel the economy not only of the province but of the country as well. The distinction of having two World Heritage sites recognized by UNESCO, namely Sta. Maria Church and Vigan City, are even more compelling reasons for the passage of this bill.

.The approval of this measure is then earnestly sought.

**Hon. Deogracias Victor 'DV' B Savellano**



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**Eighteenth Congress**  
First Regular Session  
**5160**  
**HOUSE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

---

**Introduced by Honorable Deogracias Victor 'DV' B. Savellano**

---

**AN ACT**

**DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title** - This Act shall be known as "Ilocos Sur Tourism Development Act."

**SECTION 2. Province of Ilocos Sur as a Tourism Development Area** – The Province of Ilocos Sur is hereby declared a tourism development area. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourism zones.

**SECTION 3. Tourism Development Plan.** – The DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and other concerned agencies of the government, shall prepare a tourism development plan for the Province of Ilocos Sur, providing for the development, maintenance, improvement and restoration of tourist sites, where appropriate, in conformity with set forth standards, including the construction of hotels, resorts, restaurants, recreational facilities and other appropriate facilities and infrastructure: Provided, that the said development shall ensure the preservation of the ecological balance and natural beauty of the areas concerned. The DOT shall incorporate the tourism development plan to the overall National Tourism Development Plan pursuant to RA No. 9593, otherwise known as "The Tourism Act of 2009."

The tourism development plan shall be jointly implemented by the local government units concerned and the Provincial Tourism Council of Ilocos Sur. The DPWH, in coordination with the DOT, shall implement the construction of roads and other infrastructures necessary in the development of the Province of Ilocos Sur upon the promulgation of this Act and incorporate the same in its infrastructure program.



**SECTION 4. Ilocos Sur Tourism Council** - (a) There is hereby organized the Ilocos Sur Tourism Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, which shall be the primary policy-making, planning and coordinating body in the development of tourism in the Province of Ilocos Sur and administration of ecotourism sites therein. The Council shall be composed of:

- (1) The Provincial Governor of Ilocos Sur, as Chairperson;
- (2) The mayors of all the municipalities and cities of Ilocos Sur, who elect from among themselves the Council's Vice Chairperson;
- (3) A member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Ilocos Sur, duly designated by such body;
- (4) The respective Regional Directors from the government offices of the Department of Tourism, the National Economic Development Authority, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Public Works and Highways.
- (5) The Members of the House of Representatives representing the Province of Ilocos Sur.
- (6) Two (2) representatives from the private sector, nominated by the private sector tourism industry organizations in Ilocos Sur and appointed by the Chairperson of the Council, who shall serve for a period of two (2) years.

The Council may create such committees and provide for the functions and the memberships thereof to assist it in the proper and effective performance of its functions. The Council may call on other government agencies and offices to provide advice and assistance on matters relating to the performance of its functions and the development of tourism in Ilocos Sur.

(b) The Council shall ensure that constituencies, sectors and groups, whose interests may be affected by the tourism development in Ilocos Sur, are given sufficient opportunities to be heard. The Council shall pursue consultations with relevant sectors and constituencies, conduct research, and engage the assistance of experts and other resource persons, as may be needed in the performance of its functions.

(c) The Provincial Government of Ilocos Sur shall provide a Secretariat for the Council, including the necessary expenses for the performance of its functions and activities.

(d) The functions of the Council shall be harmonized with the functions and responsibilities of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), the protected area superintendents and the regional ecotourism committee to avoid any overlap or conflict.

**SECTION 5. Ilocos Sur Tourism Development Fund** - There is hereby established a trust fund under this Act to be known as the Ilocos Sur Tourism Development Trust Fund, for purposes of financing projects which shall enhance tourism in the Province of Ilocos Sur. The Trust Fund shall be administered by a Trust Fund Administration under the Provincial Tourism Office of the Province of Ilocos Sur shall be derived from fees collected from visitor/tourists, other resources from the Province, proceeds from the registration and lease of multiple-use areas, including tourism concessions, fees, proceeds and contributions from industries and facilities directly benefiting the Province.

The fund may be augmented by grants and donations, endowments from various sources, domestic or foreign entities and individuals, for purposes related to their functions.

Provided, that the disbursements, therefrom shall be in accordance with existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations. Provided, further, that the fund shall not be used to cover personnel services expenditures.

**SECTION 6. Appropriations** - The Secretary of the DOT and the Secretary of DPWH shall include in their Department'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.

**SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations** – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the local government units of the Province of Ilocos Sur, shall likewise promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

**SECTION 8. Separability Clause** – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 9. Repealing Clause** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 10. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,