

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1554

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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REGISTRATION UNIT
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Introduced by Honorable Mark O. Go

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create the Baguio City, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay Development Authority (BLISTTDA).

The City of Baguio and its nearby municipalities have so much to offer for the growth of business, agriculture and tourism. Baguio City which is the summer capital of the Philippines is famous for its heritage and landmarks like Burnham Park, Wright Park, Mansion House, Mines View, among others; La Trinidad, with its strawberry farm and beautiful roses; Itogon, with its hot springs and hanging bridge; Sablan, with its beautiful waterfalls; Tuba, with its caves and waterfalls; and Tublay, with its caves and the Asin hot springs. These spots are just few of the places and interests foreign and local tourists are excited to visit and see.

With the passage of time, however, the problems of the environment, tourism, traffic, water supply, waste management and the provision of basic services in these attractive tourism places have become more evident. The influx of tourists and the increase in the number of vehicles, without the corresponding expansion of roads, as a result, cause daily traffic gridlock. The economic and social affairs of Baguio City and nearby municipalities are now more difficult to manage.

This proposed measure intends to centralize and oversee the development efforts and initiatives which deal with the challenges and problems confronting the City of Baguio and nearby municipalities. The proposed BLISTTDA will render services that have wider coverage and impact. It will help rationalize the usage of infrastructures and thoroughfares, transport and traffic management including the institution of a single ticketing system. In a larger scale, this proposed bill intends to build alternative roads that would bring tourists straight to their intended destinations. In this manner, traffic jams will be abated, carbon emission will be lessened and intended activities for individuals will be more manageable.

Baguio City and its adjoining municipalities were also beset with solid waste management problems. Thus, this proposal aims to provide engineered sanitary

landfill and treatment facility for solid wastes acceptable to the city and all the adjoining municipalities. Included in the bill are the provisions for better flood control and management system linkage. In times of calamities and disasters, programs and policies will be adopted to address public safety, preparedness and preemptive measures and rescue operations in coordination with national agencies.

Abating the further deterioration of Baguio City and its neighboring municipalities of La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay is an arduous task. The creation of the BLISTTDA offers a road map to bring back the glory days of these places and to achieve a sustainable social and economic growth for the interest and benefit of the people.

Hence, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



MARK O. GO

Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. 1554

Introduced by Honorable Mark O. Go

AN ACT
CREATING THE BAGUIO CITY, LA TRINIDAD, ITOGON, SABLAN,
TUBA AND TUBLAY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (BLISTTDA),
DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to pursue the acceleration of social, economic and political development of local government units and their communities through the creation of special development and administrative areas that will ensure the efficient and effective planning, supervision and coordination of essential basic services, without prejudice to the autonomy of the local government units concerned.

SEC. 2. *Creation of the Baguio City, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay Development Authority (BLISTTDA).* – The City of Baguio and the municipalities of La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay are hereby constituted into a special development and administrative area subject to direct supervision of the President of the Philippines.

The affairs of the City of Baguio and the municipalities La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay shall be administered by the Baguio City, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay Development Authority (BLISTTDA), which shall perform planning, monitoring and coordinative functions. It shall also exercise regulatory and supervisory authority over the delivery of area-wide services within the city and municipalities without diminution of the autonomy of the local government units concerning purely local matters.

SEC. 3. *Scope of BLISTTDA Services.* – The services under the jurisdiction of the BLISTTDA are those services which have wide impact and transcend local political boundaries or entail huge expenditures such that it would not be viable for said services to be provided by the individual local government units (LGUs). These services include:

a) *Development planning.* Preparation of medium and long-term development plans. Under its scope is the evaluation and packaging of developmental projects; investments programming; and coordination and monitoring of program and project implementation.

b) *Urban Renewal, Land Use Planning, and Housing and Shelter.* Formulation, adoption and implementation of policies, standards, programs and projects to rationalize and optimize urban land use taking into consideration urban growth and expansion.

It shall address the rehabilitation and development of identified areas, and the development of shelter and housing facilities with the provision for necessary social services.

c) *Transport and traffic management.* Formulation, coordination, and monitoring of policies, standards and programs that will rationalize the existing transport operations, infrastructure requirements, the use of thoroughfares, and promotion of safe and convenient movement of persons and goods.

It shall include the administration and implementation of all traffic enforcement operations, traffic engineering services, and the institution of a single ticketing system.

d) *Solid Waste Disposal and Management.* Formulation and implementation of policies, programs and projects for the proper and sanitary disposal of solid waste. It shall likewise include the establishment and operation of sanitary land fill, waste to energy, eco composting facility (ECR) and related facilities and the implementation of other alternative programs intended to reduce, reuse and recycle solid waste.

e) *Flood Control and Sewerage Management.* Formulation and implementation of policies, standards, programs and projects for an integrated flood control, drainage and sewerage system.

f) *Water Resource System.* Formulation and implementation of policies, programs and projects for a comprehensive water resource system which shall include the establishment of harvesting and distribution facility.

g) *Health and Sanitation, and Pollution Control.* Formulation and implementation of policies, standards, and programs to safeguard public health and maintain sanitation. It shall ensure the promotion of ecological balance and the prevention and control of environmental pollution.

h) *Public Safety and Order.* Formulation and implementation of programs, policies and procedures to maintain public safety, including preparedness for preventive or rescue operations during times of calamities and disasters. It shall include the implementation of contingency plans and mobilization of resources for relief operations in coordination with national agencies concerned.

SEC. 4. **BLISTT Council.** – There shall be a BLISTT Council, herein referred to as the Council, which shall serve as the governing board and policy making body of BLISTTDA to be composed of the governor of the Province of Benguet, the representatives of Baguio and Benguet, the mayors of the City of Baguio and the municipalities of La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay.

The duly authorized representatives of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Transportation, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Tourism, Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), and Philippine National Police (PNP) shall attend meetings of the Council as non-voting members.

The Council shall be headed by a Chairman, who shall be appointed by the President and who shall continue to hold office at the discretion of the appointing authority. The Chairman shall be vested with rank, rights, privileges, disqualifications, and prohibitions of a cabinet member.

The Chairman shall be assisted by a Vice Chairman for Planning, Vice Chairman for Finance & Administration and a Vice Chairman for Operations, all of whom are appointed by the President with the consent and concurrence of the majority of the Council, subject to civil service laws, rules and regulations. They shall enjoy security of tenure and may be removed for cause in accordance with law.

The Vice Chairman for Planning must have not less than five (5) years extensive experience in development and planning or must hold a master's degree in urban planning or related discipline.

The Chairman and members of the Council are entitled to allowances and per diems in accordance with existing policies, rules and regulations on the matter.

SEC. 5. **Powers and Functions.** – The BLISTTDA shall exercise the following powers and functions:

a) Formulate, coordinate and regulate the implementation of medium and long term plans and programs for the delivery of services, land use and physical development within BLISTT, consistent with national development objectives and priorities. On the preparation and implementation of medium-term investment programs for BLISTT-wide services, it shall indicate sources and allocation of funds for priority programs and projects;

b) Undertake and manage its programs and projects for the delivery of specific services under its jurisdiction, subject to the approval of the Council. For this purpose, the BLISTTDA shall create appropriate project management offices;

c) Coordinate and monitor the implementation of such plans, programs and projects in the City of Baguio and component municipalities; identify bottlenecks and adopt solutions to problems of implementation;

d) Set policies concerning traffic, coordinate and regulate the implementation of all programs and projects concerning traffic management. To seek assistance and cooperation, including assignment of personnel, from other government agencies concerned if necessary. Install and administer a single ticketing system, fix, impose and collect fines and penalties for all kinds of violations of traffic rules and regulations. The BLISTTDA shall enforce all traffic laws and regulations in the city and municipalities, through its Traffic Operation Center,

e) Enter into contract and own properties; receive funding, payments, grants, contributions and donations; sue and be sued in order to carry out its duties and functions as provided for in this Act; and

f) Perform other related functions required to achieve the objectives of the BLISTTDA, including the undertaking of delivery of basic services to the local government units, when deemed necessary subject to prior coordination with and consent of the local government unit concerned.

SEC. 6. *Functions of the BLISTT Council.* –

a) The Council shall be the policy making body of the BLISTTDA.

b) It shall approve plans, programs and projects and issue rules and regulations deemed necessary by the BLISTTDA to carry out the purposes of this Act.

c) It may increase the rate of allowances and per diems of the members of the Council to be effective during the term of the succeeding Council. It shall fix the compensation of the officers and personnel of the BLISTTDA, and approve the annual budget thereof for submission to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

d) Recommend investment programming for its plans and programs, as well as supervise the implementation of plans and programs which includes the formulation and coordination of its related activities;

e) It shall set policies and standards, and promulgate rules and regulations governing the delivery of basic services.

f) Endorse the annual as well as the supplemental budgets of the BLISTTDA; and

g) Perform such other acts and assume such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Functions of the Chairman.* – The Chairman shall:

- a) Appoint, subject to civil service laws, rules and regulations, all subordinate officers and employees, who shall enjoy security of tenure and may be removed only for cause in accordance with law. The Chairman is hereby authorized to engage the services of experts or consultants either on full time or part-time basis, as may be required in the performance of the Chairman's functions and duties;
- b) Execute the policies and measures approved by the Council and be responsible for the efficient and effective day-to-day management of the operations of the BLISTTDA;
- c) Prepare the annual budget for the operations of the BLISTTDA for the submission to the Council;
- d) Subject to the guidelines and policies set by the Council, prepare the staffing pattern and fix the number of subordinate officials and employees of the BLISTTDA and exercise the power to discipline subordinate officials and employees under the provisions of law;
- e) Prepare an annual report on the accomplishments of the BLISTTDA for submission to the Council and to the President of the Philippines; and
- f) Perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the President or by the Council.

SEC. 8. *Institutional Linkages of the BLISTTDA.* – The BLISTTDA shall, in carrying out its functions, consult, coordinate and work closely with the local government units, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and other national government agencies mentioned in Section 4 hereof, and accredited people's organization, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector operating in the component city and municipalities. The Chairman or the authorized representative from among the Council members, shall be *ex officio* member of the boards of government corporations and committees of the departments of government whose activities are relevant to the objectives and responsibilities of the BLISTTDA.

The BLISTTDA shall formulate a master plan that serves as the framework for the local development plans of the component LGUs. The BLISTTDA shall submit its development plans and investments programs to the NEDA for integration into the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan and public investment program.

The BLISTTDA shall, in coordination with the NEDA and the Department of Finance, interface with foreign assistance agencies for purposes of obtaining financing support, grants and donations in support of its programs and projects.

SEC. 9. *Sources of Funds and the Operating Budget of BLISTTDA.* –

a) To carry out the purposes of this Act, the amount of One billion pesos (Php 1,000,000,000) shall be appropriated for the initial operation of the BLISTTDA. Thereafter, the annual expenditures including capital outlays of the BLISTTDA shall be provided in the General Appropriations Act.

b) The BLISTTDA is likewise empowered to levy fines, and impose fees and charges for various services rendered.

c) Five percent (5%) of the total annual gross revenue of the preceding year, net of the internal revenue allotment, of each local government unit mentioned in Section 2 hereof, shall accrue and become payable monthly to the BLISTTDA by the city or each municipality. In case of failure to remit the said fixed contribution, the Department of Budget and Management shall cause the disbursement of the same to BLISTTDA chargeable against the Internal Revenue Allotment of the city or municipality concerned, the provisions of Section 286 of Republic Act No. 7160 to the contrary notwithstanding.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts or provisions thereof which are not affected by this Act shall continue to remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions thereof which are not affected shall continue to remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,