

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

**Eighteenth Congress**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1337



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**Introduced by Hon. Mark O. Go**

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**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. With the passage of time, however, the problems of the environment, tourism, traffic, water supply, waste management and the provision of basic services have become more evident.

To promote sustainable development and effective delivery of basic services in Baguio City and its contiguous towns there is a need for the creation of the Baguio City, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba, and Tublay Development Authority (BLISTTDA), a government entity that will be responsible for planning and implementing basic area-wide services without diminution of the autonomy of the LGUs.

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. This aims to take Baguio City and the Municipalities of La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay to a new level of growth that would achieve development that is sustainable, economically progressive, environmentally progressive and people centered.

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. In a larger scale, this proposed BLISTTDA shall perform planning, monitoring, and coordinative functions which includes the services of development planning and preparation of medium and long-term development plans, urban renewal, land use planning, housing and shelter, transport and traffic management, solid waste disposal and management, flood control and sewerage management, water resource system, health, sanitation, and pollution control, and public safety and order.

Through BLISTTDA, the principle of synergy would be emphasized when towns/cities in a contiguous area could achieve more by planning and implementing together. This is the convergence of the cities and municipalities for a common purpose,

complimentary support with each other, cooperation by sharing its resources and active collaboration.

The creation of the BLISTTDA offers a clear path to achieve a sustainable social and economic growth for the interest and benefit of the people.

Hence, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



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**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 the policy of the State to pursue the acceleration of social, economic, and political development of local government units (LGUs) 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 LGUs concerned.

**SEC. 2. Creation and Mandate of the Baguio City, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba, and Tublay Development Authority (BLISTTDA).** – There is hereby created a government instrumentality to be named as the Baguio City, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba, and Tublay Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as BLISTTDA, which shall administer a special development and administrative area embracing the City of Baguio and the municipalities of La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba, and Tublay. The BLISTTDA shall be under the direct supervision of the President of the Philippines.

The BLISTTDA shall serve as the platform for the acceleration of the social, economic, and political developments in the area as a unified management unit by enabling the component LGUs to respond to common developmental challenges through unified, effective, and economically efficient programs and undertakings. The BLISTTDA shall perform planning, monitoring, and coordinative functions. It shall exercise regulatory and supervisory authority over the delivery of area-wide services within the jurisdictions of the concerned city and municipalities without diminution of the autonomy of the LGUs concerning purely local matters.

**SEC. 3. Scope of BLISTTDA Services.** – The services under the jurisdiction of the BLISTTDA are those that will affect all or majority of the population or a wide segment of the territory, transcending local political boundaries or entailing huge expenditures such that it would not be viable for said services to be provided by an individual LGU. These services include:

(a) Development planning and Preparation of Medium- and Long-Term Development Plans. – Evaluation and packaging of development 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. These shall address the rehabilitation and development of identified areas and the development of shelter and housing facilities with provisions 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, use of thoroughfares, and promotion of safe and convenient movement of persons and goods. These shall include the administration and implementation of 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 landfill, waste to energy projects, 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 water harvesting and distribution facility;

(g) Health, 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; and

(i) Tourism -- Formulation and implementation of policies, programs, and projects for the promotion of tourism in the entire BLISTT area.

**SEC. 4. BLISTTDA Council.** – There shall be a Baguio, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba, and Tublay (BLISTT) Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, which shall serve as the governing board and policy-making body of BLISTTDA. The Council shall be composed of the Governor of the Province of Benguet, the congressional representatives of Baguio and Benguet, and 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 and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Philippine National Police (PNP) and two (2) representatives of the private sector, who shall be appointed by the Council, shall attend meetings of the Council as non-voting members.



In addition to the regular members, there shall be a Chairman, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines from a list of nominees submitted by the Council, and 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 act as the Chief Executive Officer of the BLISTTDA.

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 of the BLISTTDA.** – 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. The medium-term investment programs for BLISTT-wide services 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 and coordinate and regulate the implementation of all programs and projects concerning traffic management. It may 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 BLISTT through its Traffic Operation Center;

(e) Enter into contract and own properties; receive funding, payments, grants, contributions and donations; and 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 LGUs when deemed necessary subject to prior coordination with and consent of the LGU concerned.

**SEC. 6. Functions of the BLISTTDA Council.** – The Council shall perform the following functions:

(a) Exercise the policy-making power of the BLISTTDA;

(b) Approve plans, programs, and projects and issue rules and regulations deemed necessary by the BLISTTDA to carry out the purposes of this Act;

(c) Fix the compensation of the officers and personnel of the BLISTTDA in accordance with the Salary Standardization Law and approve the annual budget thereof for submission to the 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) 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 BLISSTDA; 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 BLISTTDA Chairman.*** – The BLISTTDA 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 duties and functions;

(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 and exercise the

power to discipline subordinate officials and employees under the provisions of law;

(c) Subject to the guidelines and policies set by the Council, prepare and submit to the Council, for its approval, the organizational structure and the staffing pattern, and fix the number of subordinate officials and employees of the BLISTTDA;

(d) Prepare the annual budget for the operations of the BLISTTDA for submission to the Council;

(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 of the Philippines or by the Council.

**SEC. 8. *The General Manager and Senior Managers.*** – The Chairman shall be assisted by a General Manager, a Senior Manager for Planning, and a Senior Manager for Finance and Administration, all of whom are appointees of the President of the Philippines, subject to civil service laws, rules and regulations. They shall enjoy security of tenure unless removed for cause in accordance with law.

The General Manager shall exercise the powers of a Senior Manager for Operations with the following functions:

(a) Assist the Chairman in the administration of the BLISTTDA and supervision of subordinate personnel;

(b) Assist the Chairman in the supervision of operation centers and units of the BLISTTDA;

(c) Assist the Chairman in the review of plans and programs for the BLISTTDA and the LGUs, and in the preparation of the annual report of the activities and accomplishments of the BLISTTDA; and

(d) Perform such other duties and functions as may be lawfully delegated or assigned by the Chairman from time to time.

The Senior Manager for Planning shall possess not less than five (5) years extensive experience in development and planning or a Master's degree in Urban Planning or related discipline.

**SEC. 9. *Institutional Linkages.*** – The BLISTTDA shall, in carrying out its functions, consult, coordinate, and work closely with the LGUs, NEDA, and other national government agencies mentioned in Section 4 hereof, and accredited people's organizations, nongovernmental 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* members 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 to serve 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 (MTPDP) and public investment program.

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

**SEC. 10. *Sources of Funds and the Operating Budget of the BLISTTDA.* –**

(a) The amount necessary for the operating budget of the BLISTTDA shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

(c) The operations of the BLISTTDA shall likewise be supported through financial contributions or technical assistance from member LGUs, nongovernment agencies (NGAs) and government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and the private sector, and other local and international organizations in the form of grants, donations, contributions, payments, penalties, fees, and charges.

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

**SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts or provisions thereof which are not consistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 13. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*