

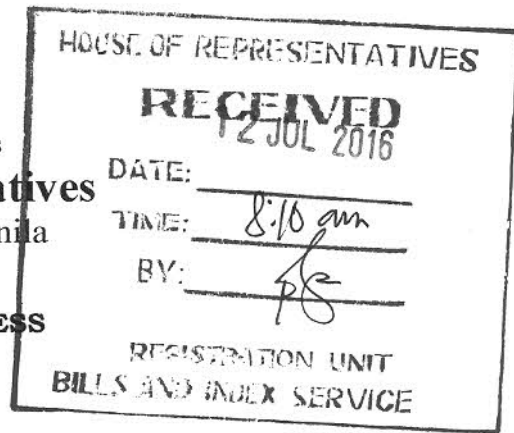


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

1408

House Bill No. _____



Introduced by **Honorable ERLPE JOHN "PING" M. AMANTE**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Punta Diwata located in Barangay Vinapor, Municipality of Carmen, Province of Agusan del Norte as a priority tourism site and incorporate it in the Philippine National Tourism Development Plan.

Punta Diwata is a marine paradise, 45 minutes away from Butuan City, located at the western end of Agusan del Norte. It is blessed with crystal blue waters and a shore dive site described to have one of the best coral reef covers in the country. Lining along the nearby coast are five (5) additional dive spots that are teeming with different fishes and other remarkable marine species. Punta Diwata also hosts forty-three (43) interesting caves and a lighthouse.

These tourism assets of Punta Diwata promise a lot of potential to become a topnotch diving destination. In recognition to this, the national government is even investing on a road project leading to the area amounting to P280,000,000.00 through the Tourism Road Infrastructure Program. Punta Diwata has also attracted many domestic and foreign divers to explore its famed dive sties. But due to the limited budget at the municipal and provincial levels, support facilities needed to fully develop the area, such as accommodations, restaurants, and diving gears, cannot be made available.

Through this bill, it is hoped that the national government, through the Department of Tourism and the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority, will be able to provide supplementary technical and funding assistance to the development of Punta Diwata to ensure that its rich marine biodiversity is preserved and that economic opportunities are equitably distributed to the locals.

Hence, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


ERLPE JOHN "PING" M. AMANTE



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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. 1408

Introduced by **Honorable ERLPE JOHN “PING” M. AMANTE**

AN ACT
DECLARING THE PUNTA DIWATA LOCATED IN BARANGAY VINAPOR,
MUNICIPALITY OF CARMEN, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL NORTE AS A
PRIORITY TOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. The Punta Diwata (9°05'38.42"N, 125°12'30.50"E) located in Barangay Vinapor, Municipality of Carmen, Province of Agusan del Norte is hereby declared a priority tourist development site. As such, the Department of Tourism (DOT) is mandated to incorporate it in the Philippine National Tourism Development Plan.

SECTION 2. The DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority, shall within one (1) year after the approval of this Act prepare a tourism development plan for the area that will ensure its viability and environmental sustainability; and undertake the implementation of the said plan.

SECTION 3. The DOT shall issue rules and regulations as it may deem necessary for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. The budget necessary to the implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the DOT under the General Appropriations Act or to the internally generated funds of the TIEZA, or both.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,