

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3683



Introduced by Representative JAKE VINCENT S. VILLA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Tourism Act of 2009 provides for the following objectives, among others:

SECTION 3. Objectives. – Pursuant to the above declaration, the State shall adopt the following objectives:

xxx

(m) Achieve a balance in tourism development between urban and rural areas in order to spread the benefits of tourism and contribute to poverty alleviation, better access to infrastructure and to a reduction in regional imbalances;

(n) Enhance capability-building of local government units (LGUs), in partnership with the private sector, in the management of local tourism projects and initiatives, thereby ensuring accessible and affordable destinations throughout the country, especially in areas which have shown strong comparative advantage;

xxx.

Pursuant to the above-quoted objectives, this measure seeks to mandate the Department of Public Works and Highways ("DPWH") to prioritize the construction of necessary infrastructures, particularly of roads and bridges, to ensure the accessibility of tourism sites in the country. The measure also includes, the Department of Tourism ("DOT") together with DPWH, to prioritize the implementation of the Convergence Program for Enhancing Tourism Access.

The convergence program aims to facilitate efficient and more coordinated efforts to identify, evaluate, prioritize and implement "technically-correct and politically-participative" road access projects leading to tourist destinations.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



JAKE VINCENT S. VILLA

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS TO
PRIORITIZE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NECESSARY
INFRASTRUCTURE TO ENSURE THE ACCESSIBILITY OF ALL TOURISM
SITES IN THE COUNTRY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as "Tourism Sites Accessibility Act of 2019".

SECTION 2. Tourism is proven income generator and as such deserves the support of the State. Thus, the implementation of the Convergence Program for Enhancing Tourism Access of the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall be prioritized.

SECTION 3. The DPWH is hereby mandated to ensure the construction of roads and bridges leading to all tourism sites in the country.

SECTION 4. The Secretaries of the DOT and DPWH shall include in the Departments' programs 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 5. Within Sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, DOT, in collaboration with the DPWH, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or part thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,