

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4717



**Introduced by: Representatives Gil "Kabarangay Jr." A. Acosta, Cyrille
"Beng" F. Abueg-Zaldivar, Franz "Chicoy" E. Alvarez**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill declares the province of Palawan as the Priority Cruise Ship Destination in MIMAROPA Region with the corresponding government support.

Section Two (2) of RA 9593 provides that "The State declares tourism as an indispensable element of the national economy and an industry of national interest and importance, which must be harnessed as an engine of socio-economic growth and cultural affirmation to generate investment, foreign exchange and employment, and to continue to mold an enhanced sense of national pride for all Filipinos."

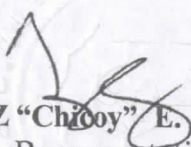
Palawan is the first destination when it comes to cruise-tourism in MIMAROPA Region. The cruise ships coming to the Province of Palawan are top of the line. From January – September 2019, thirteen (13) international cruise ships have visited Palawan.

Palawan is the biggest province in the Philippines and is composed of 1,768 islands and islets. An exotic paradise in South East Asia, Palawan has been voted the world's best island. Nothing defines Palawan more than the water around it. The Philippines' most sparsely populated region is also the

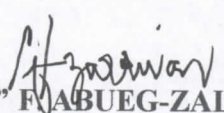
most enticing. Diving, island-hopping and snorkelling trips in this part of the world manage to captivate both those seeking adventure and those wanting to relax.

The declaration of the Province of Palawan as the Priority Cruise Ship Destination in MIMAROPA Region would create a favourable image of the Philippines within the international community, thereby strengthening the country's attraction as a tourism destination and eventually paving the way for other benefits that may result from a positive global view of the country.


Taking into account the points raised, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



FRANZ "Chicoy" E. ALVAREZ
Representative
1st District of Palawan



CYRILLE "Beng" F. ABUEG-ZALDIVAR
Representative
2nd District of Palawan



GIL "Kabarangay Jr." A. ACOSTA
Representative
3rd District of Palawan

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**Introduced by: Representatives Gil “Kabarangay Jr.” A. Acosta, Cyrille
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1 **AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AS PRIORITY**
2 **CRUISE SHIP DESTINATION IN MIMAROPA REGION**

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

5 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the “Palawan
6 Priority Cruise Ship Destination Act.”

7 **SECTION 2. *Palawan as Priority Cruise Ship Destination.*** - It is
8 hereby declared the policy of the State to promote sustainable tourism industry
9 throughout the country. The Province of Palawan, one of the major ports for
10 cruise tourism, is hereby declared a priority cruise ship destination in the
11 MIMAROPA Region.

12
13 As such, it shall be accorded priority development by the Department of
14 Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing
15 cruise tourism.

16
17 **SECTION 3. *Construction, Installation and Maintenance of Facilities***
18 ***and Infrastructure.*** - Within one (1) year from the approval of this Act, the
19 DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone
20 Authority and other concerned agencies of the government, shall cause the
21 construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and
22 infrastructure as shall enhance cruise tourism in the Province.

23
24 **SECTION 4. *Appropriation.*** - The Secretary of the DOT shall include
25 in the Department’s program the implementation of this Act, the funding of

26 which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and from
27 internally generated funds of the DOT.

28
29 **SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The DOT shall
30 prepare a master plan, to be approved by the President of the Philippines.
31 Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, it shall likewise
32 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of
33 this Act.

34
35 **SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act shall
36 be held unconstitutional, any other provision not otherwise affected shall remain
37 in full force and effect.

38
39 **SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, executive orders, rules, and
40 regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
41 hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

42
43 **SECTION 8. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect (15) days after its
44 publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

45
46 *Approved,*