

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 728



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INTRODUCED BY REP. MAXIMO JR. Y. DALOG

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Philippines boasts of its beautiful and various tourism destinations ranging from heavenly beaches to majestic mountains, waterfalls, lakes, caves and man-made attractions like the different rice terraces in the Northern part of the country. These tourist destinations have in fact attracted around 2,204,564 visitors for the first quarter of this year alone<sup>1</sup>.

However, despite the number of known tourist destinations, there are a lot of tourism potentials in the country that have yet to be developed, discovered and more importantly preserved. One of these lesser known tourism potentials in the Philippines is the municipality of Barlig in Mountain Province. Barlig, Mountain Province is home to the tenth highest mountain in the Philippines, Mount Amuyao frequented by adventurous local mountaineers for its thick mossy forest cover and abundance of flora and fauna. It is also where the famous Philippine Eagle was sighted in the late 1990s. In addition, Barlig offers varied tourist spots from cascading waterfalls, cool pristine lakes, hot springs, wonderful rock formations, majestic mountain ranges, beautiful rice terraces, burial caves, unique cultural patterns that is showcased during the three festivals in the municipality and the most sought after cool temperature during summer which give an unforgettable and distinctive experience to those who both love nature and culture.

Considering that tourism is a fast-growing industry in the Philippines, there is therefore a need in developing tourism potentials like the municipality of Barlig, Mountain Province.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly urged.

  
**MAXIMO JR. Y. DALOG**

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<sup>1</sup>Joyce Ann L. Rocamora. PH Tourist Arrivals up by 7.59% in Q1 2019. Philippine News Agency. May 9, 2019. Internet. Available URL: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1069334>. June 8, 2019.

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**AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF BARLIG IN MOUNTAIN  
PROVINCE AS A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.**

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

**Section 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Barlig Tourism  
Development Area” (Barlig TDA) Act.

**Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of  
the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable,  
responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable, and  
equitable local communities. Towards this end, the State shall support the  
establishment of Tourism Enterprise Zones (TEZ) and ensure the full  
implementation of this Act and the mobilization of resources for the  
institutional mechanisms herein established to attract and focus investment on  
specific geographic areas within the tourism development area.

**Sec. 3. Scope and Coverage.** The Municipality of Barlig, Province  
of Mountain Province is hereby declared a tourism development area. The  
following natural and historical areas within the town of Barlig which are  
endowed with natural beauty, pristine waters and mountain resources, and  
rich historical and cultural significance shall be included in the Barlig TDA and  
thus developed as tourist destinations therein:

- a) The Mount Amuyao and the mountain range of Kadaclan in the  
Municipality of Barlig;
- b) The Barlig Rice Terraces in barangays Gawana, Fiangtin,  
Macalana and Latang;
- c) The Kadaclan Rice Terraces in barangays Lunas, Chupac, Kaleo  
and Ogo-og;



- d) The Lias Rice Terraces and Challos Falls in barangays Lias Silangan and Lias Kanluran;
- e) The Topnew and Lingoy Hot Springs and Lake Tufob in Barangay Lingoy;
- f) The Mornang Hot Spring, the Mornang and Allob Falls, the Siblaw Taraw Lake and the Wonderful Rock in Barangay Latang;
- g) The Lettang Burial Caves and the Lettang, Moyopoyop and Patyayan Falls in Barangay Lunas;
- h) The beautiful Or-or Falls in Barangay Kaleo;
- i) The Amfitayok Falls in the Barangay of Ogo-og;
- j) The Tokchag Falls in Barangay Gawana;
- k) The Lusong Fukian Kan Wikian Rock Formation in Barangay Fiangtin; and
- l) The Pangngor Chin Stone and Tomallan Waterfalls in Barangay Macalana.

The development of the Barlig TDA shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourism development areas.

**Sec. 4. *Tourism Development Plan of Barlig.*** – The Tourism Development Plan of the Municipality of Barlig shall be incorporated in the DOT's overall National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP) pursuant to Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as the "National Tourism Act of 2009" and shall be jointly implemented with the local government and the Provincial Tourism Council of Mountain Province taking into consideration Republic Act No. 7586, otherwise known as the "National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992" and its implementing rules and regulations.

The DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and other concerned agencies of the government, shall delineate well defined geographic areas within the Barlig TDA and coordinate the integrated development of these areas for the optimum use of natural assets and attractions, as well as existing facilities.

**Sec. 5. *Barlig Tourism Development Trust Fund.*** – There is hereby established a trust fund under this Act to be known as the Barlig Tourism Development Trust Fund for purposes of financing projects which shall enhance tourism in the municipality. The Trust Fund shall be administered by a Trust Fund Administrator under the Municipal Tourism

Council of Barlig. the Trust Fund shall be derived from fees collected from visitors/tourists, other resources from the province, proceeds from the registration and lease of multiple-use areas, including tourism concessions, fees, proceeds and contributions from industries and facilities directly benefiting the municipality.

The Trust Fund may be augmented by grants and donations, endowment from various sources, domestic or foreign entities and individuals, for purposes related to their functions; *Provided*, That disbursements therefrom shall be in accordance with existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations: *Provided, further*, That the Trust Fund shall not be used to cover personal services and expenditures.

**Sec. 6. Appropriations.** – The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and internally generated funds of the DOT.

**Sec. 7. Separability Clause.** – Any provision of this Act or part hereof that may be declared unconstitutional shall not affect the effectivity of the other provisions.

**Sec. 8. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations and other issuances contrary to or inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

**Sec. 9. Effectivity Clause.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,