

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

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3175**



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Introduced by Representative Eric D. Singson

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Currently the Candon City Ecotourism Zone, a sprawling 250 hectares, is the home of more than 10,000 trees including fruit bearing ones. It is envisioned that someday it will be identified as Ilocos Region's fruit bowl. There is unlimited potential as the city government has been conducting annual tree planting activities since 2005 which they call "Fiesta ti Bantay" (feast of the forest). The Ecotourism Zone's top part is the highest point that overlooks most of the barangays of the city including the city hall and portions of the national highway. Other towns can also be seen making it as potential convergence area of people from the towns of Santa Lucia, Salcedo and Galimuyod. The Ecotourism Zone will surely boost the eco/agri/eco-agri-tourism industry of the Ilocos Sur area.

The City Mayor of Candon, Mayor Ericson Singson has bared plans to maximize the zone's potential to showcase eco-tourism project and environmental protection and preservation programs. To help realize this plan, I am funding the road network going to the area for easier transport to the place. Well paved roads along barangays Parioc II and Palacapac, including partial portion of the road going up the area, are already done.

The declaration by the Department of Tourism of this area as a tourist destination will not only accelerate the development of this site, it would it would also put it on the DOT map which in turn would attract more tourists in the area.

In view of the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable and ethically and socially equitable for local communities as declared in R.A. 9593, otherwise known as the "Tourism Act of 2009", the approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.

  
**ERIC D. SINGSON**

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**AN ACT**

**DECLARING THE CANDON CITY ECO TOURISM ZONE LOCATED IN  
BARANGAY PALACAPAC, BARANGAY SAN ANDRES, BARANGAY  
CUBCUBBUOT AND BARANGAY AMGUID, IN THE CITY OF CANDON,  
PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR AS TOURIST DESTINATION PROVIDING FOR  
ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**SECTION 1.** The Candon City Eco Tourism Zone is hereby declared tourist destination. As such, it shall be accorded with priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to rules and regulations governing the development of tourist destination.

**SEC. 2.** The Department of Tourism, in accordance with the local government units and other concerned agencies of the government shall, within one year (1) after the approval of this Act, prepare a development plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure as shall enhance tourism in the area; *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural resources of the area.

**SEC. 3.** The Department of Tourism shall take immediate steps in implementing the tourism development plan that will suit the natural characteristics of Candon City Eco Tourism Zone and shall incorporate the same in its overall development plans and programs for national implementation.

**SEC. 4.** It shall also be the responsibility of the DOT to promote Candon City Eco Tourism Zone as tourism area in all its natural, regional and local promotion programs.

**SEC. 5.** The Secretary of Tourism shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

**SEC. 6.** The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

**SEC. 7.** All laws, rules, regulations, proclamations, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended accordingly.

**SEC. 8.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*