

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7263

Introduced by Representative Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr.

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

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

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

3 **Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative,
5 culturally sensitive, economically viable and equitably beneficial to local communities.
6 Towards this end, the State shall support the establishment of tourism enterprise zones
7 (TEZs), ensure the full implementation of this Act, and the mobilization of resources for the
8 institutional mechanisms herein established to attract and focus investment on specific
9 geographic areas within the tourism development area.

10 **Sec. 3. *Scope and Coverage.*** - The Municipality of Barlig, Mountain Province is
11 hereby declared a tourism development area (TDA). The following natural and historical
12 areas within the municipality which are endowed with natural beauty, pristine water and
13 mountain resources, and rich historical and cultural significance shall be included in the
14 Barlig TDA and shall thus be developed as tourist destinations:

- a) Mount Amuyao and the mountain range of Kadaclan;
- b) Barlig Rice Terraces in Barangays Gawana, Fiangtin, Macalana and Latang;
- c) Kadaclan Rice Terraces in Barangays Lunas, Chupac, Kaleo and Ogo-og;
- d) Lias Rice Terraces and Challos Falls in Barangays Lias Silangan and Lias Kanluran;
- e) Topnew and Lingoy Hot Springs and Lake Tufob in Barangay Lingoy;
- f) Mornang Hot Spring, the Mornang and Allob Falls, the Siblaw Taraw Lake and the Wonderful Rock in Barangay Latang;
- g) Lettang Burial Caves and the Lettang, Moyopoyop and Patyayan Falls in Barangay Lunas;
- h) Or-or Falls in Barangay Kaleo;
- i) Amfitayok Falls in Barangay Ogo-og;
- j) Tokchag Falls in Barangay Gawana;
- k) Lusong Fukian Kan Wikian Rock Formation in Barangay Fiangtin; and
- l) 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. Municipal Tourism Council of Barlig. – (a) There is hereby organized the Municipal Tourism Council of Barlig, hereinafter referred to as the Council, which shall be the primary policy-making, planning and coordinating body in the development of tourism in the Municipality of Barlig and administration of ecotourism sites thereat.

The Council shall be composed of the:

- (1) Mayor of the Municipality of Barlig, as Chairperson;
- (2) Barangay Chairpersons of all barangays of Barlig, who shall elect from among themselves the Council's Vice Chairperson;

(3) Member of the Sangguniang Bayan of Barlig who is duly designated by such body;

(4) Regional and Provincial Directors concerned of the Department of Tourism, National Economic Development Authority, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Department of Public Works and Highways;

(5) Provincial Governor of Mountain Province, as *ex-officio* member;

(6) Representative of the Lone District of Mountain Province, as *ex-officio* member;

and

(7) Two (2) representatives from the private sector, nominated by the private sector tourism industry organizations in the Municipality of Barlig and appointed by the Chairperson of the Council, who shall serve for a period of two (2) years

The municipal government of Barlig shall provide a Secretariat for the Council.

(b) The Council shall have the following functions:

(1) Ensure that constituencies, sectors and groups, whose interests may be affected by the tourism development in the municipality, are given sufficient opportunities to be heard.

(2) Pursue consultations with relevant sectors and constituents, conduct research, and engage the assistance of experts and other resource persons, as may be needed in the performance of its functions.

(3) Formulate programs and recommendations to develop local tourism facilities and attractions;

(4) Assist in monitoring the implementation of the Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code on the matter of licensing of tourism establishments on the locality to ascertain safe and enjoyable stay of travelers;

(5) Strictly enforce sanitary standards in public restrooms located in places frequented by passengers of public utility vehicles and tourism transport services, i.e. gasoline stations, restaurants along main highways and bus stops;

(6) Appoint the Trust Fund Administrator of Barlig Tourism Development Trust Fund;

(7) Perform any other duties in accordance with the Department of Interior and Local Government's (DILG) Guidelines; and

(8) Ensure that the functions of the Council shall be harmonized with the functions and responsibilities of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), the protected area superintendents and the regional ecotourism committee to avoid any overlap or conflict.

The Council may create such committees as it may deem necessary, and provide for the functions and the memberships thereof to assist it in the proper and effective performance of its functions. The Council may call on the other government agencies and offices to provide advice and assistance on matters relating to the performance of its functions and the development of tourism in the Municipality of Barlig.

Sec. 5. *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 Tourism Act of 2009," and shall be jointly implemented by the municipal government of Barlig 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

1 of these areas for the optimum use of natural assets and attractions, as well as existing
2 facilities.

3 **Sec. 6. Barlig Tourism Development Trust Fund.** - There is hereby established a
4 trust fund under this Act to be known as the Barlig Tourism Development Trust Fund for the
5 purpose of financing projects which shall enhance tourism in the Municipality. Funds shall
6 be derived from fees collected from visitors, proceeds from the registration and lease of
7 multiple-use areas, including tourism concessions, fees, proceeds and contributions from
8 industries and facilities directly benefiting the Municipality, and other resources from the
9 Province.

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

15 The Barlig Tourism Development Trust Fund shall be administered by a Trust Fund
16 Administrator who shall be under the supervision of the Municipal Tourism Council of
17 Barlig.

18 **Sec. 7. Appropriations.** - The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's
19 program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual
20 General Appropriations Act and from internally generated funds of the DOT.

21 **Sec. 8. Separability Clause.** - Any provision of this Act or part hereof that may be
22 declared unconstitutional shall not affect the effectivity of the other provisions.

23 **Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and
24 regulations and other issuances contrary to or inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed
25 repealed or modified accordingly.

1 **Sec. 10. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
2 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

3 Approved,