



PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 363

Series of 2022

Sponsored by: The Committee on Tourism

AN ORDINANCE EFFECTING THE GRADUAL RE-OPENING OF TOURISM
INDUSTRY IN THE PROVINCE OF BATANES

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9593 Series of 2009, known as the "Act Declaring a National Policy for Tourism as Engine of Investment and Employment" is a policy that acknowledges tourism as an "indispensable element of national economy and an industry of national interest and importance..." thus, tourism is one of the major revenue generator and a catalyst for socio-economic growth and a source of national pride";

WHEREAS, in terms of economic development, the tourism industry is one of the major sources of income for the people of Batanes;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Pandemic has caused an immense impact to the people of Batanes due to the sudden economic deceleration brought by the closure of our boundaries to visitors/tourists and other restrictions on the movement of people and goods implemented by the province to comply with national impositions;

WHEREAS, to prevent further spread of this dreadful COVID-19 in the province, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan enacted Ordinance Nos. 296, 303, and 308, Series of 2020 that provides mechanisms in the management of returning residents and the interim closure of the province of Batanes to tourists;

WHEREAS, considering that Batanes is now categorized under Alert Level One (1) status, the provincial government recognizes the importance of providing employment and livelihood to the tourism sector in order to recover from the huge economic or financial losses;

WHEREAS, series of consultation meetings were held by the tourism stakeholders resulting for the Batanes Provincial Tourism Council's approval of its Resolution on April 25, 2022 expressing support/agreement to the recommended guidelines that will govern the reopening of Batanes to tourist and the provisional reopening on May 15, 2022, and of which was subsequently endorsed by the Provincial Governor to the Sanggunian on April 26, 2022;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Batanes in session assembled, that:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE: This Ordinance shall be known as "The Gradual Re-opening of Tourism Industry in Batanes".

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. It is the policy of the Provincial Government, subject to the provisions of Section 16 of Republic Act 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 "every local government unit shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare". Within its territorial jurisdiction, the Provincial Government shall ensure and support, among other things, the preservation and enrichment of culture, promote health and safety, enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology, encourage and support the development of appropriate and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, improve public morals, enhance economic prosperity and social justice, promote full employment among their residents, maintain peace and order, and preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants".

SECTION 3. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Ordinance is to gradually open the tourism industry in Batanes in order to recover from the negative impact of COVID-19 Pandemic by generating revenues for local businesses, create employment opportunities, and revive economic development thus improve the basic services in the community.

SECTION 4. GRADUAL ENTRY OF TOURISTS. The Provincial Tourism Council shall determine the number of tourists' entry in the Province which shall commence on May 15, 2022.

SECTION 5. GENERAL GUIDELINES. To ensure adherence to National Policies, all applicable provisions of law and the following particular guidelines issued by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IAF-MEID), Department of Tourism (DOT), and other National Government Agencies (NGAs) are hereby adopted and shall form part of this Ordinance:

- a. IATF-MEID Guidelines on the Nationwide Implementation of Alert Level System for COVID-19 Response, and its future amendments.
- b. DOT Administrative Order No. 2022-001 Guidelines on the Operations of Hotels and other Accommodation Establishments under the Alert Level System, and its future amendments.
- c. DOT Advisory No. 02 S. 2022 dated 23 February 2022 re: COVID-19 Response and Handling of Guests in Accommodation Establishments, and its future amendments.

SECTION 6. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES. The specific guidelines or mechanisms governing the operation of entities involved in the tourism industry in Batanes shall be formulated and adopted by the Batanes Provincial Tourism Council (BPTC) such as but not limited to the following categories/aspects:

- a. Pre-arrival of Tourists
- b. Arrival of Tourists
- c. Actual Tour
- d. Travel and Tour Agencies
- e. Tour Guides
- f. Operation of Hotels and Accommodation Establishments
- g. Restaurants, Cafes, and other Food Establishments
- h. Tourism and Heritage Sites
- i. The Role of Tourism and Heritage Section of PGO, and
- j. Other entities involved

SECTION 7. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR). Upon approval of this Ordinance, within ten (10) days the Provincial Tourism Office is hereby tasked to formulate its Implementing Rules and Regulations in consideration of the above general and specific guidelines to be issued by the Provincial Governor through an Executive Order for its effective implementation.

SECTION 8. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. Any provision or portion of this Ordinance found to be violative of the Constitution, invalidated by a court of competent jurisdiction, or contrary to issuances made by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Disease (IAFT), DTI, DOT, or DOLE, shall not impair the other provisions or parts thereof which shall continue to be in force and in effect.

SECTION 9. REPEALING CLAUSE. All local issuances such as Executive Orders, Resolutions, and the provisions of Provincial Ordinance Nos. 296, 303, and 308 or parts thereof, which are in conflict with/or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVITY. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its approval.

ENACTED this 5th day of May 2022 on Motion of Hon. Juliet P. Cataluña duly seconded by all the Honorable Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members present.


Voting on the foregoing Ordinance are as follows:

Ayes: Hon. Romeo G. Acebes, Hon. Juan E. Redondo, Hon. Juliet P. Cataluña, Hon. Ferdinand C. Elica, Hon. Milagros Juliet F. Abas, Hon. Evelyn G. Maduro, Hon. Will Lee H. Gabotero, Hon. Vicenta V. Hidalgo, Hon. Benigno B. Cobico, and Hon. Argel E. Hortiz


Nays: None

Absent: None


I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the Ordinance which was duly enacted by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Batanes during its Special Session held on May 5, 2022.

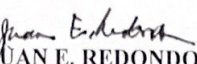

ANTHONY C. DE LOS SANTOS
Secretary to the SP


**ATTESTED AND CERTIFIED
TO BE DULY ENACTED:**


IGNACIO C. VILLA
Provincial Vice Governor/
Regular Presiding Officer


CONCURRED IN:


ROMEO G. ACEBES
SP Member



JUAN E. REDONDO
SP Member

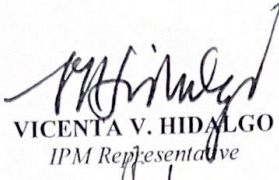

JULIET P. CATALUÑA
SP Member

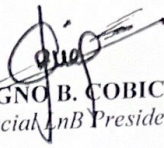

FERDINAND C. ELICA
SP Member

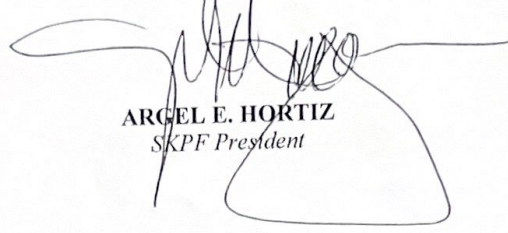

MILAGROS JULIET F. ABAS
SP Member


EVELYN G. MADURO
SP Member


WILL LEE H. SABORERO
PCL Federation President


VICENTA V. HIDALGO
IPM Representative


BENIGNO B. COBICO
Provincial AnB President


ARCEL E. HORTIZ
SKPF President

APPROVED:


MARILOU H. CAYCO
Provincial Governor

Date: 5/10/2022

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE
SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

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BY: Ofel

DATE: 11 May 2022

TIME: 1:05 PM