

Mandate. – The Department of Tourism, hereinafter referred to as the Department, shall be the primary planning, programming, coordinating, implementing and regulatory government agency in the development and promotion of the tourism industry, both domestic and international, in coordination with attached agencies and other government instrumentalities. It shall instill in the Filipino the industry's fundamental importance in the generation of employment, investment and foreign exchange.

Powers and Functions. – The Department shall have the following powers and functions:

(a) Formulate tourism policies, plans and projects for the development of tourism as an engine of socio-economic and cultural growth;

(b) Supervise and coordinate the implementation of tourism policies, plans and project;

(c) Call upon all agencies of government to properly carry out their programs in Relation to and in coordination with the policies, plans and projects of the Department and to assist in the implementation thereof;

(d) Communicate to the President, and the heads of departments, agencies and Instrumentalities of the government, the impact upon tourism and the economy of proposed governmental actions;

(e) Provide an integrated market development program to attract people to visit The Philippines and enhance the prestige of the country and the Filipino people in the international community;

(f) Represent the government in all domestic and international conferences and fora, and in all multilateral or bilateral treaties and international agreements concerning tourism, and ensure the government's implementation thereof and compliance with all obligations arising there from;

(g) Request the President for representation in all government agencies, offices, boards, commissions and committees that may affect tourism;

(h) Call upon relevant government departments, agencies and offices, in consultation with the private sector, to provide access to travel, to facilitate the process of obtaining and extending visas, to integrate and simplify travel regulations and immigration procedures and to ensure their efficient, fair and courteous enforcement to assure expeditious and hospitable reception of all visitors;

(i) Support, advance and promote the protection, maintenance and preservation of historical, cultural and natural endowments, in cooperation with appropriate government agencies and the private sector, and take appropriate measures against acts and omissions contrary to these objectives;

(j) Monitor conditions of any community in the Philippines and, in consultation with the LGUs and law enforcers, issue timely advisories on the safety or viability of travel to particular places within the Philippines and on patronage of entities engaged in tourism related activities and of tourism products;

(k) Evaluate tourism development projects for the issuance of permits and the grant of incentives by appropriate government agencies, establish a databank of tourism areas and projects for investment purposes, and encourage private sector investment and participation in tourism activities and projects;

(l) Formulate and promulgate, in consultation with the LGUs, the private sector industries and other tourism stakeholders, rules and regulations governing the operation and activities of all tourism enterprises, including but not limited to a national standard for licensing, accreditation and classification of tourism enterprises, prescribing therein minimum levels of operating quality and efficiency for their operation in accordance with recognized international standards, impose reasonable penalties for violation of accreditation policies and recommend to the LGUs concerned the suspension or prohibition of operation of a tourism enterprise;

(m) Monitor the LGUs' compliance to national standards in the licensing of tourism enterprises, receive and investigate complaints concerning these enterprises, and act on such complaints to properly implement the provisions of this Act;

(n) Ensure the proper coordination, integration, prioritization and implementation of local tourism development plans with that of the National Government;

(o) Provide technical assistance to LGUs in destination development, standard setting and regulatory enforcement; (p) Undertake continuing research studies and survey to analyze economic conditions and trends relating to tourism and travel, and compile and integrate a statistical databank on the tourism industry;

(q) Delegate to regional offices, in coordination with LGUs, specific powers and functions in the implementation of tourism policies, plans and projects;

(r) Collect necessary fees and charges for the proper implementation of tourism policies, plans and projects; and

(s) Exercise such other powers and functions as are necessary for the implementation of this Act (RA 9593).