Republic of the Philippines
Province of Oriental Mindoro
MUNICIPALITY OF ROXAS

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

EXCERPTS FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE 58th REGULAR SESSION OF THE 10TH SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF ROXAS, ORIENTAL MINDORO HELD ON 17 AUGUST 2020, 2:00 P. M. AT THE SANGGUNIAN SESSION HALL.

Present:

Vice Mayor Gualberto V. Magno	- Presiding Officer
Councilor Jerwin S. Dimapilis	- Member
Councilor David D. De La Cruz	- Member
Councilor John John S. Yason	- Member
Councilor Robert S. Quiatchon	- Member
Councilor Lucille T. Bacay	- Member
Councilor Juan Rafael M. Talens	- Member
Councilor Ronel S. Sescar	- Member
Councilor Celso M. Dimapilis	- President, Liga ng Barangay
Councilor Elmira May V. Tarac	- Member, SKMF President
Absent: Councilor Agustin L. Cusi	- Member

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 17
Series of 2020

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE ROXAS MANGROVE ECO-TOURISM ZONE, SITUATED IN SITIO DALAHICAN, BARANGAY SAN JOSE, ROXAS, ORIENTAL MINDORO PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Author:
Councilor JUAN RAFAEL M. TALENS

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State to ensure the sustainable use, development, management, protection and conservation of the country's environment and natural resources and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of the present and future generations;

WHEREAS, the State is mandated to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable and equitable for a local community;

WHEREAS, considering a huge potential for revenue generation, there is a need to identify and develop potential areas in the locality for tourism purposes and to appoint officers for the same purpose;

WHEREAS, there are mangrove areas in Barangay San Jose, Roxas, Oriental Mindoro which can be developed into an eco-tourism destination;

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WHEREAS, it can also generate investments that would provide employment opportunities for local residents, given that the influx of tourist would make the ecotourism zone a significant source of business opportunities while protecting its natural habitat.

NOW THEREFORE motion of Councilor Juan Rafael M. Talens duly seconded by Councilor John John S. Yason –

Section 1. **SHORT TITLE.** This ordinance shall be known and cited as "Roxas Mangrove Eco-Tourism Zone of the Municipality of Roxas, Oriental Mindoro".

Section 2. **DECLARATION OF POLICY.** The Municipal Government of Roxas hereby declare the mangrove area situated in Sitio Dalahican, Barangay San Jose of this municipality as Roxas Mangrove Eco-Tourism Zone. It shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.

Section 3. **OBJECTIVES.** The Roxas Mangrove Ecotourism Zone is purposely established to:

a) Develop and promote responsible, community-based ecological tourism as the core management strategy in the development of mangrove area;

b) Ensure the conservation of the biodiversity and the preservation of the said area;

c) Develop tourism products and programs that will generate employment and livelihood for the local residents, consistent with the preservation and maintenance of the mangrove.

d) Guarantee that the financial and economic benefits of the tourism industry are equitably shared by, and distributed among the local residents by giving preference and support to the community and home-based tourism enterprises, such as micro and small businesses, lodges and homestays, restaurants, food and fruit stands, and similar tourism oriented industries and businesses;

e) Ensure that the quality of local tourism programs and activities are educational and enriching for tourists and visitors through the provision of orientation, educational and tour programs by local tour operators, Barangay San Jose and the Department of Tourism; and

f) Guarantee that in the development and promotion of the local tourism industry, the Local Government Unit of the Municipality of Roxas shall ensure that the needs of local residents in the area of water supply, food, energy and local construction materials are first secured and met.

Section 4. **DEFINITION OF TERMS.** As used in this Ordinance, the following words and phrases are hereby defined:

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a) Biodiversity conservation – refers to the practice of preserving the variety of species, habits and ecosystems and genetic diversity of the place, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes which they are part of.

b) Community-based tourism – refers to a form of tourism where the local community and its residents have substantial control over and involvement in the development and management of the local tourism industry and a greater portion of the economic gains remain within the community;

c) **Ecotourism** – refers to a form of sustainable tourism within a natural area where community participation, protection and management of natural resources, cultural and indigenous knowledge and practices environmental education and ethics, as well as economic benefits are fostered and pursued for the enrichment of host communities and satisfaction of visitors;

d) **Homestays** – refers to a system of tourist accommodation where a tourist stays with local residents and experiences the day-to-day life of the residents of Barangay San Jose;

e) **Responsible ecotourism** – refers to a form of sustainable tourism in which both the tourism sector and the tourist take responsibility in the protection, respect, and conservation of the natural environment and the local culture and ways of life, and where community participation as well as economic benefits are fostered and pursued for the well-being of the local people in Barangay San Jose and visitors;

f) **Sustainable tourism development** – refers to the management of all resources in a way that simultaneously meets the needs of tourism and host municipality; protects the opportunities for the future; fulfills the economic, social and aesthetic needs; and preserves natural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and a system that supports and perpetuates life;

g) **Mangrove** – a community of salt tolerant intertidal plants including all species of trees, shrubs, vines and herbs found on coast, swamps or border of swamps.

SECTION 5. **SCOPE AND COVERAGE.** This ordinance shall cover the mangrove areas situated in Sitio Dalahican, Barangay San Jose, Roxas, Oriental Mindoro. The technical boundaries shall be undertaken by the Department of Natural Resources - Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR CENRO) and other agencies for the proper implementation of this ordinance.

SECTION 6. **MUNICIPAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE MANGROVE ECOTOURISM ZONE.** The Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with the Department of Natural Resources - Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR-CENRO) and Provincial Tourism, Investments and Enterprise Development Office (PTIEDO shall assist the Municipal Government of Roxas in the formulation of the Municipal Tourism Development Plan for Mangrove Ecotourism Zone that shall be complemented by a set of guidelines for an ecotourism zone. The tourism development plan shall ensure the

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preservation of ecotourism zone, the identified tourist attraction, shall include the following components:

a) Carrying capacity of the eco-park;
b) Specific site assessment;
c) Identification of strategic priorities,
d) Product development for local income generation,
e) Capacity-building for the local community so residents therein can be able to manage economically viable and responsible, community-based ecotourism business enterprises,
f) Support for the formulation of local production groups and networks, including the marketing and pricing of products; and
g) Marketing strategies that reflect the natural, social and environmental integrity of Mangrove Ecotourism Zone and its local residents.

The process of developing the Tourism master Plan for Mangrove Ecotourism Zone shall be participatory, from the bottom up, with the framework provided by the DOT, DENR-CENRO, in consultation with the LGU of Roxas and Barangay San Jose.

SECTION 7. **FORMULATION OF GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS.** The concerned Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-CENRO) and the local tourism council, in coordination with the Municipal Government of Roxas and Barangay San Jose, shall assist in the formulation of local tourism standards in the context of the environmental protection are integrated in the development of eco-tourism plans.

The standards shall:

a) Raise the capacity of all stakeholders and ensure that best practices are followed;
b) Ensure optional use of water and energy;
c) Reduce waste and pollution through the encouragement and recycling and environmentally-sound waste management disposal schemes, with a principle of taking as much waste away from the eco-tourism zone as possible;
d) Prevent vandalism in the facilities of the eco-tourism zone; and
e) Encourage the use of local products and services and support the employment of local people.

SECTION 8. **CREATION OF TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG).** The Technical Working Group for this Ordinance shall be composed of the following concerned government agencies and stakeholders:

Chairman : Municipal Mayor
Co-Chairman : CENRO or his Designated Representative
Members :

a) Regional Director of Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region IV-B

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b) Head of Protected Area Management Bureau (PAMB)
c) Head of Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA)
d) District Supervisor of the Department of Education
e) Municipal Agriculturist
f) Municipal Engineer
g) Municipal Assessor
h) Municipal Planning and Development Officer
i) Barangay Captain of San Jose or his designated representative
j) Sangguniang Bayan Chairperson, Committee on Environmental Protection and Natural Resources
k) Sangguniang Bayan Chairperson, Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry, Investment and Economic Affairs
l) Sangguniang Bayan Chairperson, Committee on Education, Science and Technology, History, Culture and Arts
m) Head of Department of Tourism, Region IV-B
n) Head of Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA)
o) President of Fisherfolk Association in Barangay San Jose
p) Municipal Tourism Council

SECTION 9. **FUNCTION OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG)** –

a) Prepare a work plan for the preparation of the Ecotourism Management Plan
b) Formulate the Ecotourism Management Plan
c) Consult with local communities and stakeholders of ecotourism sites
d) Formulate policies, programs and projects towards the fulfillment of the provisions of this Ordinance
e) Formulate leisure and educational tour packages
f) Approve and oversee the implementation of the Ordinance
g) Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Ordinance
h) Attend regularly in all meetings of the committee and participate actively in all deliberations about this Ordinance

SECTION 10. **MAINTENANCE OF CLEANLINESS.** The Sangguniang Barangay of San Jose shall provide manpower responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of their mangrove area.

SECTION 11. **FEES AND CHARGES.** The following fees shall be paid by the tourist of Roxas Mangrove Eco-Tourism Zone.

a)	Entrance Fee	-	P20.00 per person
b)	Environmental Fee	-	P25.00 per person
c)	Snorkling	-	P50.00 per person
d)	Scuba diving	-	P20.00 per person
e)	Boat/Bangka Fees	-	P50.00 per person
f)	Kayaking	-	P50.00 per person

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