DRAFT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF MANDATORY ACCREDITATION OF PRIMARY TOURISM ENTERPRISES AND VOLUNTARY ACCREDITATION OF THOSE IDENTIFIED UNDER THE SECONDARY CATEGORY

Sponsor: HON. IMOGEN CLAIRE M. CALLANGAN

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WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9593 otherwise known as the Tourism Act of 2009 entitled "An Act declaring a national policy for tourism as an engine of investment, employment, growth and national development, and strengthening the Department of Tourism and its attached agencies to effectively and efficiently implement that policy" was approved last May 12, 2009;

WHEREAS, in compliance to Section 17 (4), in relation to (2) (xi) of R.A. No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 that grants the local government units the power to deliver and/or regulate basic services and facilities including primary and secondary tourism enterprises, the Department of Tourism has devolved its licensing regulatory powers over the operations and maintenance of aforesaid establishments;

WHEREAS, the regulation of Tourism enterprises by the local government units are still governed by the Tourism Code of 1980, with its related implementing rules and regulations even if they have subsequently been revised in 1992 for accommodations and tourism related establishments or secondary tourism enterprises, 1995 for travel and tour agencies, 2000 for frontline and transport services;

WHEREAS, section 14 (C) in subchapter II-A of RA 9593 instructs the office of Tourism Standards and Regulations to develop and enforce a comprehensive system of mandatory accreditation of primary tourism enterprises and voluntary accreditation of secondary tourism enterprises, in accordance with prescribe guidelines and standards;

WHEREAS, the Local Government Units, the private section industries and other tourism stakeholder will be consulted by the Department of Tourism (DOT) in the formulation and promulgation of the new 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 the recognized international standards, impose reasonable penalties for violation of the accreditation policies;

WHEREAS, the DOT shall conduct regular training and continuing education to enhance the capability of the LGUs and their tourism officers in partnership with the private sector to properly implementation the regulatory provisions of the Tourism Act of 2009;

WHEREAS, the DOT is requesting the LGUs to require all establishments that may be classified as primary tourism enterprises; the presentation of its accreditation certificate upon submission of its application for renewal of its license/permit to operate and those applying for new original license be require to present an endorsement from the DOT, also upon submission of its application;

WHEREAS, the pre-requisite for accreditation by the DOT of the aforesaid tourism enterprise is the license or permit to operate from the LGU;

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WHEREAS, the LGUs have the power to ensure the efficient delivery of services and enforce standards for the operation and maintenance of tourism enterprises following the DOTs prescribe minimum level of quality and efficiency consistent with the local and international standards;

WHEREAS, the people of Tuguegarao City will economically, culturally and socially benefit from the multiplier effect of the strong and vibrant tourism industry;

NOW, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, as it is hereby **RESOLVE**, that a resolution is approved to support the DOT in carrying out its mandate of enforcing the mandatory accreditation of primary tourism enterprises by the year 2024 by requiring the primary tourism enterprises to secure first accreditation from the said Department prior to the renewal of its license and encourage the voluntary accreditation of those classified under the secondary category as embodied in the Tourism Act of 2009

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that this resolution be forwarded to the BPLO for appropriate action and adoption and to the Chairman of Committee on Tourism for inclusion in the ordinance that may be passed for the promotion and development of the local tourism industry