



COMMITTEE REPORT  
COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

**Agenda No. 390 - AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING AND IMPLEMENTING THE UTILIZATION OF THE BATAAN VISITORS INFORMATION AND TRAVEL ASSISTANCE (VIS.I.T.A.) APPLICATION FOR RELEVANT TOURISM ACTIVITIES IN THE PROVINCE OF BATAAN.**

Pursuant to Republic Act No. 9593 (Tourism Act of 2009), “The State declares tourism as an indispensable element of the national economy and an industry of national interest and importance, which must be harnessed as an engine of socio-economic growth and cultural affirmation to generate investment, foreign exchange, and employment, and to continue to mold an enhanced sense of national pride for all Filipinos.” The Provincial Government of Bataan (PGB) subscribes to this state policy, and towards this end constantly strives for the attainment of gradual recovery of the local tourism industry which was greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Bataan VIS.I.T.A. App is an online registration platform that can be accessed through <https://visita.beholdbataan.ph/>. It was launched on May 24, 2022 on a voluntary basis to serve as an online registration platform for individuals and entities engaging in tourism activities in Bataan, which has so far proven to be very useful. The Tourism Promotions Board (TPB), the marketing arm of the Department of Tourism (DOT), assisted PGB in the development and implementation of prompt and appropriate initiatives for the recovery of the local tourism industry, one of which is the development and improvement of the online platform Visitors Information and Travel Assistance (VIS.I.T.A.) System and Application.

Tourism-related establishments, as the partners of the PGB in implementing the use of the Bataan VIS.I.T.A. App stand to likewise greatly benefit as the same can be utilized as a long-term planning tool for responsible and sustainable tourism management.

Given the foregoing, as concluded in our Committee Meeting on **October 12, 2022**, this Committee recommends the approval for second reading of **Agenda No. 390** upon suspension of rules.

Prepared by:

  
**ROMAN HAROLD R. ESPELETA**  
Chair, Committee on Tourism

**“EXCELLENT PUBLIC SERVICE TOWARDS A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL”**



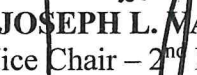
**ANTONINO B. ROMAN III J.D, LL.M.**  
Vice Chair– 1<sup>st</sup> District




**JOMAR L. GAZA J.D.**  
Member



**ANGELITO M. SUNGA**  
Member



**NOEL JOSEPH L. MALDECAÑAS**  
Vice Chair – 2<sup>nd</sup> District



**ROMANO L. DEL ROSARIO**  
Member



**JORGE S. ESTANISLAO, M.D.**  
Member

**PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_**  
**Series of 2022**

**AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING AND IMPLEMENTING THE UTILIZATION OF THE BATAAN VISITORS INFORMATION AND TRAVEL ASSISTANCE (VIS.I.T.A.) APPLICATION FOR RELEVANT TOURISM ACTIVITIES IN THE PROVINCE OF BATAAN**

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 7160 provides that it is the policy of the State that its territorial and political subdivisions shall enjoy genuine and meaningful local autonomy to enable them to attain their fullest development as self-reliant communities and make them more effective partners in the attainment of national goals;

**WHEREAS**, in Republic Act No. 9593 (Tourism Act of 2009), "the State declares tourism as an indispensable element of the national economy and an industry of national interest and importance, which must be harnessed as an engine of socio-economic growth and cultural affirmation to generate investment, foreign exchange, and employment, and to continue to mold an enhanced sense of national pride for all Filipinos";

**WHEREAS**, the Provincial Government of Bataan (PGB) subscribes to these State policies, and towards this end constantly strives for the attainment of gradual recovery of the local tourism industry which was greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, the Tourism Promotions Board (TPB), the marketing arm of the Department of Tourism (DOT), assisted PGB in the development and implementation of prompt and appropriate initiatives for the recovery of the local tourism industry one of which is the development and improvement of the online platform Visitors Information and Travel Assistance (VIS.I.T.A.) System and Application;

**WHEREAS**, the VIS.I.T.A. System and Application is now being adopted in other provinces to facilitate the tourism activities amidst the pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, the Bataan VIS.I.T.A. App, which was launched on May 24, 2022 on a voluntary basis to serve as an online registration platform for individuals and entities engaging in tourism activities in Bataan, has so far proven to be very useful;

**WHEREAS**, Tourism-Related Establishments as partners of the PGB in implementing the use of the Bataan VIS.I.T.A. App stand to likewise greatly benefit as the same can be utilized as a long-term planning tool for responsible and sustainable tourism management;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN IN SESSION DULY ASSEMBLED:**

**SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the Provincial Government of Bataan (PGB) to support the gradual recovery and further development of the local tourism industry. Towards this end, the PGB declares that it shall continuously implement tourism-related projects, programs and activities, including but not limited to the development and improvement of an online registration platform, which is beneficial to all Excursionist, Tourists and Tourism-Related Establishments.

**SECTION 2. Definition of Terms** – As used in this Ordinance, the following terms are defined as follows:

- a. Excursionist – refers to a day tour visitor or resident of the province, who will utilize a Tourism-Related Establishment;
- b. QR-Coded Tourist Pass (QTP) – refers to the electronic identification card generated through and after registration with the Bataan VIS.I.T.A. App;

- c. Tourism-related Establishment - refers to facilities, services and attractions involved in the provision of accommodations, including, but not limited to, hotels, resorts, apartelles, tourist inns, motels, pension houses, and home stay operators. The same may be accredited by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and/or registered with their respective Local Government Unit (LGU);
- d. Tourist – refers to visitor or resident of the province, who will utilize a Tourism-Related Establishment for at least an overnight;

**SECTION 3. The Bataan VIS.I.T.A. App.** – The Bataan VIS.I.T.A. App is an online registration platform that can be accessed through <https://visita.beholdbataan.ph>. The same shall be utilized in the business operations of Tourism-Related Establishments and in tourism activities of Excursionist and Tourists. The registration information that may be gathered through the Bataan VIS.I.T.A. App, which shall include visitor profiles, demographics and preferences, will be utilized to monitor real-time data analytics, which may be utilized for purposes of responsible and sustainable tourism management and planning.

**SECTION 4. Registration by Tourism-related Establishments.** – It shall be mandatory for Tourism-Related Establishments to:

- a. register with the Bataan VIS.I.T.A. App;
- b. use the Bataan VIS.I.T.A. App in the conduct of its relevant business operations;
- c. require the registration of their Excursionists and Tourists with the Bataan VIS.I.T.A. App;
- d. ask their Excursionists and Tourists for the presentation of QTPs as generated from the use of the Bataan VIS.I.T.A. App; and
- e. scan the QTPs of their Excursionists and Tourists;

**SECTION 5. Registration of Excursionists and Tourists.** - Consistent with relevant health protocols and for other reasons beneficial for all stakeholders, it shall be the responsibility of Excursionists and Tourists to register with the Bataan VIS.I.T.A. App.

**SECTION 6. Data Privacy.** - The PGB, through the Provincial Tourism Office (PTour), shall ensure that the implementation of this Ordinance shall always and strictly be compliant with the relevant provisions of Republic Act No. 10173 (Data Privacy Act) and other relevant laws, rules and regulations.

**SECTION 7. Functions of the Provincial Tourism Office.** – The PTour shall be primarily responsible for the implementation of this Ordinance. The PTour shall have the following specific functions under this Ordinance:

- a. ensure the registration of all Tourism-Related Establishments with the Bataan VIS.I.T.A. App;
- b. conduct periodic inspection of Tourism-Related Establishments for purposes of assessing compliance with this Ordinance;
- c. assist and orient Tourism-Related Establishments in the use of the Bataan VIS.I.T.A. App;
- d. if it deems necessary for the implementation of this Ordinance, promulgate an Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

**SECTION 8. Certificate of Compliance.** – On the basis of the inspection that the PTour will periodically conduct, the same shall issue a Certificate of Compliance in favor of qualified Tourism-Related Establishments. This certificate, which shall evidence the compliance of a Tourism-Related Establishment with this Ordinance, is hereby made a requirement for the renewal of business permits and other licenses before the relevant LGUs and/or PGB offices.



**SECTION 9. Sharing of Data Analytics.** - Within the parameters and manner allowed by the Data Privacy Act and other relevant laws, rules and regulations, the PTour may provide information, statistics and data analytics to Tourism-related Establishments only with the end in view of assisting the same in planning, capacity-building and improving its operations and services.

**SECTION 10. Violations of this Ordinance.** - The following acts or omissions shall be considered violations of this Ordinance:

- a. Failure of a Tourism-Related Establishment to register with the Bataan VIS.I.T.A. App within the schedule or period that the PTour shall provide;
- b. Failure of a Tourism-Related Establishment to properly utilize the Bataan VIS.I.T.A. App in the conduct of its operations, which includes, but is not limited to the failure to:
  1. require the registration of tourists with the Bataan VIS.I.T.A. App;
  2. ask for the presentation of QTPs as generated from the use of the Bataan VIS.I.T.A. App; and
  3. scan the QTPs;
- c. Utilization of data or information collected in relation to the Bataan VIS.I.T.A. App in a manner or for purpose other than those as intended herein;
- d. Any person who discloses and/or publishes data or information collected in relation to the Bataan VIS.I.T.A. App shall be punished accordingly under the provisions of the Data Privacy Act.

**SECTION 11. Penalties.** - The following penalties shall be meted-out against any person, whether natural or juridical, found violating this Ordinance:

	Natural Person	Juridical Person
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Offense</b>	Php1,000 fine	Php2,000 fine
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense</b>	Php3,000 fine	Php4,000 fine
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; succeeding Offenses</b>	Php5,000 fine	Php5,000 fine

**SECTION. 12. Separability Clause.** - If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION. 13. Repealing Clause.** - All ordinances, resolutions, local executive orders or administrative regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION. 14. Effectivity.** - This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a local newspaper of general circulation.