



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR
MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

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DISTAD MARIANAS

Effective date
2/14/76

February 12, 1976

The Honorable Vicente N. Santos
President, Mariana Islands District Legislature
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

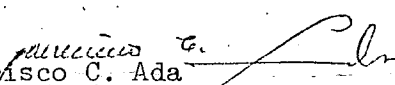
Dear Mr. President:

I am returning with my approval Act No. 21-1976, entitled: "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A MARIANA ISLANDS VISITORS BUREAU, AND TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTION OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT CODE", passed by Fourth Mariana Islands District Legislature, Eight Regulars Session January 1976. The subject Act is now District Law No. 4-145.

Although I signed Act No. 21-1976, I would recommend a change of language found in Section 8 as follows: A word "a" be deleted and the word "an" be substituted in its place followed by the word "Alcoholic" so as to read "an alcoholic beverage container tax." Also on page 4 of the act under item (j), the word "english" should be capitalized to "English".

A certified copy of Act No. 21-1976 is forwarded herewith for your file.

Sincerely,


Francisco C. Ada
District Administrator
Mariana Islands District

- cc: District Director of Public Affairs (w/attachment)
- Director of Public Affairs, HQ (w/attachment)
- Attorney General (w/attachment)
- District Attorney (w/attachment)

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FOURTH MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE

EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION

ACT NO. 21-1976
INTRODUCED BY: HON. JESUS V. GUERRERO, SAIPAN
HON. LORENZO I. GUERRERO, SAIPAN

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A MARIANA ISLANDS VISITORS
BUREAU; AND TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE
MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT CODE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE FOURTH MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE,
THAT:

Section 1. This Act may be cited as the Mariana Islands Visitors
Bureau Act of 1976.

Section 2. Findings and declaration of policy. The Mariana
Islands District Legislature finds that tourism is an
important developing industry in the Mariana Islands
District, and has great potential as a source of
employment and business opportunity for the residents
in the Mariana Islands. It is hereby declared to be
the policy of the Mariana Islands District Legis-
lature that the development of tourist industry
should be encouraged and in order to provide for the
orderly development of this industry and to realize
its full potential, it is necessary to utilize
government tourist-oriented businesses and community
leaders in a concerted and unified manner.

Section 3. Creation. There is hereby created the Mariana
Islands Visitors Bureau, hereinafter referred to as
the Bureau, which shall be governed by a Board of

Directors to be composed of nine (9) members, five (5) of whom shall be appointed by the District Administrator with at least one (1) from Rota and one (1) from Tinian, and four (4) shall be chosen by and from the members of the Bureau, with the advice and consent of the Mariana Islands District Legislature, who shall serve their term in accordance with Section 6 of this Act, after the expiration of the initial appointment under Section 4. The Bureau shall be a non-profit organization, managed by a managing director to be selected by the Board of Directors, whose purpose shall be to promote the establishment and the development of the tourist industry in the Mariana Islands, and whose constitution and by-law, and amendments thereto shall be approved by the District Administrator. The initial meeting of the Board of Directors shall be convened by the District Administrator at which time they shall select a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers as they shall decide.

Section 4. Initial Appointment. The five current members of the Marianas Tourist Commission together with four persons to be appointed by the District Administrator, with the advice and consent of the Mariana Islands District Legislature, two of whom shall be from the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and one from Tinian and one from Rota, shall serve as the initial members of the Bureau for a term of one (1) year from the

effective date of this Act.

Section 5. Quorum. Five members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum and the concurrence of a majority of the members present shall be necessary for the validity of its official meetings. The chairman of the Board of Directors shall be the executive representative of the Bureau and its certifying officer.

Section 6. Terms and Compensation. Members of the Board of Directors of the Bureau shall serve for a term of four years, provided, however, that five members shall serve for a term of two years, and the four for a term of four years from the date of their appointment after the expiration of the initial appointment under Section 4. The terms of members shall be determined by the drawing of lots. All members of the Board of Directors shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualified, and shall not be compensated for meetings attended. The Directors of the Bureau shall be entitled to reimbursement for actual expenses incurred, in the performance of their official duties except board meetings, upon approval of such expenses by the Board.

Section 7. Powers and Duties. The Mariana Islands Visitors Bureau shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) to attract tourist to the Mariana Islands;

- (b) to conduct programs of advertising, publicity and promotion designed to familiarize the travelling public with the Mariana Islands attractions and increase the number of visitors to the Mariana Islands;
- (c) to advise the District Administrator on the need for the expansion and improvement of existing tourist facilities and recommend steps to provide an increasing degree of visitors satisfactory after arrival;
- (d) to encourage the investment of private funds to improve tourist facilities in the Mariana Islands;
- (e) to establish reception and information booths and other facilities at and provide staff for the same, to operate on arrival tourist areas;
- (f) to recommend the initiation of procedures in the processing of immigration and custom clearance;
- (g) to improve communication with foreign visitors, by assisting in the establishment of language training programs;
- (h) to promote the manufacture of indigenous handicraft;
- (i) to promote island-wide clean-up, planting and beautification programs;
- (j) to prepare information booklets in english and other appropriate languages, for distribution to all incoming visitors;

- (k) to accept donations and gifts for the promotion of tourist development;
- (l) to study and survey tourist needs and facilities;
- (m) to recommend and request acquisition of sites suitable for tourist facilities;
- (n) to cooperate with public and private groups and organizations;
- (o) to coordinate its efforts with all department and agencies of the district and municipal governments;
- (p) to make assessments from the membership of the Mariana Islands Visitors Bureau, either in cash or in kind;
- (q) to employ technical services and any other staff as it may require to effectively promote the functions of the Bureau;
- (r) with the approval of the District Administrator, to adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act;
- (s) to compile such statistics as may be helpful to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Section 8. Sections 6.44.020 and 6.44.070 of the Mariana Islands District Code are hereby amended to read as follows:

"6.44.020 Levied. There is levied and imposed a beverage container tax, which is a tax of two cents levied upon the privilege of the first sale within the Mariana Islands District of each container of beer."

"6,44,070 disposition of revenues. The District Treasurer is authorized to return to each municipality in the Mariana Islands District fifty percent (50%) of the tax collected from such municipality pursuant to the provisions of this Act for appropriation by their respective legislative bodies to be used exclusively for scholarship program in each respective municipalities. The remaining fifty percent (50%) of the revenues generated under this Chapter shall be made available to the Mariana Islands Visitors Bureau, that shall use the same to carry out its purposes."

Section 9. Accounts and records. The Mariana Islands Visitors Bureau shall keep such accounts and records as may be necessary to enable the District Legislature to determine whether the provisions of this Act are being complied with. Such accounts and records shall at all times be available for inspection and audit, as may be determined by the Mariana Islands District Legislature. The District Treasurer shall be the custodian of all funds generated and authorized by this Act and shall disburse the same in accordance with established procedures.

Section 10. Annual report. The Bureau shall make an annual report to the District Administrator and to the Mariana Islands District Legislature at the termination of each fiscal year setting forth a summation of its activities, a balance sheet showing all revenues and expenditures and its general recommendations for improvement.

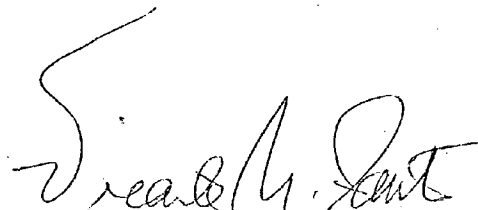
Section 11. Transfer of property to Bureau. Upon the effective date of this Act, the following property shall be transferred to the Bureau:

- (1) all items of property, materials, equipment and supplies which the Marianas Tourist Commission owns.
- (2) all working capital, cash, accounts payable and receivable, deposits, advances payable and receivable, all books, records and documents, and all other rights, obligations, assets, liabilities, agreements, contracts, leases, concessions, and other rights, obligations and privileges pertaining to the operation of the Marianas Tourist Commission.

Section 12. Chapters 3.24 and 3.36 of the Mariana Islands District Code are hereby repealed in their entirety.

Section 13. This Act shall take effect upon approval by the District Administrator, or upon its becoming law without such approval.

PASSED BY THE FOURTH MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE JANUARY 21, 1976.


VICENTE W. SANTOS
President

ACT NO. 21-1976

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Santiago B. Magaña
SANTIAGO B. MAGAÑA
Legislative Secretary

Signed this 11th day of February, 1976.

Francisco C. ADA
FRANCISCO C. ADA
District Administrator
Mariana Islands District

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