

Siargao Island into a Tourism Enterprise Zone in Caraga region

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The national and provincial governments are joining hands to make Siargao Island a Tourism Enterprise Zone (TEZ) in Caraga region.

Aside from the already known amazing tourist spots in this Pacific Ocean facing island , the provincial government of Surigao del Norte and Department of Tourism (DOT) are now shaping Siargao Island in the map of international water sports events and adventures.



Surigao del Norte Gov. Sol F. Matugas (right) explains on how to make Siargao, a Pacific ocean facing island in Surigao del Norte to be more globally competitive in terms of tourism potentials as House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez (left) attentively listens during the grand opening of the 2017 World Game Fishing Tournament in Pilar town, Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte that started Thursday afternoon, April 6, 2017. (Credits: Mike Crismundo / Manila Bulletin)

Surigao del Norte Gov. Sol Matugas said Siargao is blessed and is rich in marine life, a haven of opportunities for livelihood and discoveries, a wonderful place to enjoy life with other people, and a venue to appreciate other forms of life.

“Beautiful island with islets and more sea sporting events, make this island now more globally competitive,” stressed the governor.

A P50 million fund from the DOT is already in the pipeline, that will be utilized to further boost the tourism industry in Siargao Island, a senior tourism official in Caraga region of the DOT said on Friday (April 7).

DOT 13 Officer-In-Charge Regional Director Mary Jean Camarin on Friday said part of the P50-million funding is already being utilized for the success of the on-going 2017 World Game Fishing Tournament.

The tournament that kicked off on Thursday and will culminate on April 9, has a total allocation of P10 million, Camarin said.

Another P10 million from the total budget will fund the upcoming World Surfing League slated in September this year in nearby General Luna town, she said.

A total of P5 million will be allocated to other water sports adventures in the island, one of which is the International Women's Surfing Tournament in June this year, she said.

P25 million from the total budget will be used to commence the Siargao Tourism Development Program, she added.

The program, she stressed, will focus on urban planning for Siargao Island to come out with an integrated tourism master plan.