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NONOY MENDOZA, Editor & Publisher
Mailing Address :
P.O. BOX 40068 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016 • U.S.A.
OFFICE: (202) 370-6446 • FAX: (703) 465-8708
EMAIL: nonoymendoza@filamimage.com
WEB SITE: <http://www.filamimage.com>



Tourism Plans for the future....

Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo pledges to help develop tourism assets in rural areas

PILAR, Siargao Island, June 2 (PinoyGlobal) —President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo vowed last April 17, 2008, that her administration would help develop tourism assets in the countryside, saying that “tourism has the potential to be a major driver of economic development for our rural areas.”

In her brief message at the opening of the **First Siargao Game Fishing Invitational Tournament**, last April 17th, the President said economic development in the rural areas is not all about developing modern agricultural methods but also “working to responsibly develop those parts of our country that are uniquely suited for development as environmentally sensitive destinations for domestic and international tours.”

She said her administration would help the local governments improve their infrastructure facilities such as airports and roads which are badly needed to make tourist destinations more accessible.

The President said that in her travels abroad, she always make it a point to invite foreign businessmen to invest in tourism ventures in the Philippine countryside.

Siargao Island, a tropical island paradise with powdery white sands and one of the best surfing sites in the world, the government is helping the local government improve the Sayak airport and the main roads leading to potential tourist spots such as Dako Island. Dako Island is one of the country’s best surfing sites.

The President stressed, however, that in developing tourist destinations, the integrity of the environment must always be of primary consideration.

The President ordered the release of P10 million for the upgrading of the water system of the Municipality of Pilar, the site of the First Siargao Invitational Game Fishing Tournament.



Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President

About 70 anglers from 10 countries are participating in the game fishing event. “I’m giving a P10 million check for the water system of Pilar. This is not only for the benefit of tourists but also for the people of Siargao,” she said.

At the same time, the President said the Siargao Provincial Hospital would be upgraded to tertiary hospital to enable the poor to avail themselves of its enhanced medical services.

She also said that in her numerous travels abroad, she has invited investors to put their money in tourism business in the Philippine Countryside.

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