

**[ DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, August 09, 2011 ]**

**AMENDING SECTION 137 OF THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND  
REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9593**

Pursuant to the powers vested in the Secretary of Tourism by law, the following rules and regulations are hereby promulgated amending Section 137 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9593 on the Tourism Congress.

"Section 137 — The Tourism Congress.

(a) The Secretary shall convene the Tourism Congress composed of representatives of accredited tourism enterprises including former government officials involved in tourism. Former government officials shall refer to former Secretaries of Tourism; provided that they are no longer in government service and have complied with the requirements of the Tourism Congress.

For primary and secondary tourism enterprise sectors that are not yet covered by the existing Department accreditation system, the permit, license or franchise issued by the relevant national government regulatory agency shall be recognized as their accreditation.

(b) The Tourism congress as convened in accordance with these Rules shall elect at least a President, Secretary, Treasurer and as many officers to equally represent the accommodation, transportation, travel and tours, meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions (MICE) tourism estate development, and other tourism enterprise sectors, and from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; Provided further, That only high ranking officials of tourism enterprises accredited by the Department or other government regulatory bodies shall be elected officers of the Congress. The Tourism Congress shall establish a Secretariat.

For the purpose of electing a new set of Board of Trustees and Officers of the Tourism Congress convened under this amended provision, the Secretary shall preside over the election of its President.

(c) The Tourism Congress as convened herein shall adopt and ratify its Constitution and By-laws; Provided, That the same are consistent with these Rules.

(d) The Tourism Congress as convened herein shall nominate three (3) candidates from among its members, as far as practicable, providing for equal representation from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, from each of the following sectors to represent the tourism industry in the Tourism Board:

1. Accommodation enterprises;
2. Travel and tour services;