

San Vicente seen as emerging government hub in northern Palawan

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A board member is pushing for the establishment of a government center in the former logging town of San Vicente, in anticipation of the town's rapid economic development triggered in part by the completion of its own airport.

Board Member Cherry Pie Acosta, in a resolution filed this week at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, said the tourism related investments currently being put into the municipality by the national government, as a Flagship Tourism Enterprise Zone (TEZ), is expected to jumpstart the town's rapid development in the coming years.

"I foresee that San Vicente is a strategic location to establish a provincial government center in northern Palawan," Acosta said. She noted that the town has been the focus of attention by the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) in developing the town's tourism potential.

She expressed optimism that based on the municipality's tourism masterplan developed by the consulting group Palafox Associates, the town will start to see major tourism investments.

"TIEZA will not focus on San Vicente if they did not see its potential," Acosta said in justifying her proposal to put up an extension of the Capitol center in the municipality. Acosta said the setting up of a government center in the town will help facilitate investments in the town.

She added that her proposal is also in support of the planned division of Palawan into several provinces, an initiative currently being pushed by the provincial government as a strategy to support the administration's move towards a federal form of government. San Vicente boasts of nature attractions including its 14-kilometer Long Beach which has attracted major investors.