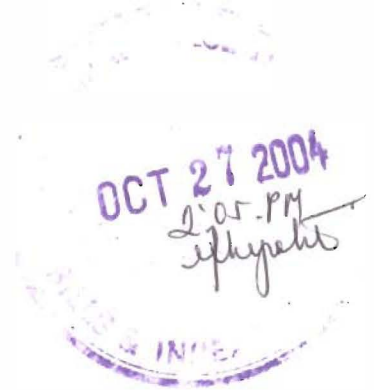


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3210



Introduced by Honorable Catalino V. Figueroa

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Municipality of Calbiga, Province of Samar as a tourist spot.

Tourism is one of the major dollar-earning industries of the country. The tourism boom during the 80's was due to the numerous tourist spots that have been developed and made accessible to tourists, local and foreign alike. In fact, the government has launched a massive tourism development program called "Wow, Philippines" to help strengthen the economy of the country.

In the Province of Samar, there are a number of tourist spots but they are yet to be developed. One of these is the Municipality of Calbiga. It is one of Samar's towns that boasts of a cave which is the country's biggest karst formation with 2,968 hectares of cave system that has 12 caves with wide underground spaces, unique rock formations and subterranean watercourse.

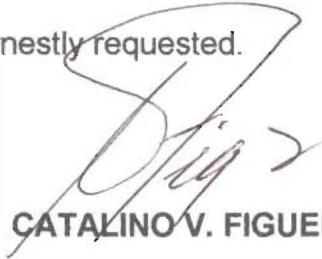
Calbiga is where you can find the Calbiga River which helps in the irrigation needs and flood control of the town. Entering through Maqueda Bay, one can sigh a breath of wonder once inside the Calbiga River. Mangroves are a bounty in the area.

Calbiga is where one can experience the *Pahoy-pahoy* Festival which has been assimilated into the Christian tradition of the yearly town fiesta in the form of the farmers' festival. During the said festival, folks in the town's *barangays* vie from among themselves in creating giant and medium *pahoy* (scarecrows) from indigenous materials. The giant scarecrows are paraded during the town fiesta in May. The more it is creatively entertaining, the better. The small *pahoy* form lines in the town streets like sentinels seemingly ready against unforeseen attacks of dark forces. The festival itself is an exercise of creativity. It is also a contest on who could best interpret the "*Pahoy Legend*" of driving away the evils that beset the farmer through a variety of native dance steps accompanied by drums and other native musical instruments. Of late, the *Pahoy-pahoy* Festival has been reaping awards in the regional competition of festivals from different towns and cities of Region 8. It was even one of the festivals that joined the "Wow, Philippines!" competition of festivals on the national level.

One can go to Calbiga by plane via Tacloban City traversing through the San Juanico Bridge and a well-built highway. It is also one hour away from Samar's capital town of Catbalogan. Being one of Samar's progressive towns, Calbiga's declaration as a tourist spot would create more jobs for its populace.

Thus, economic growth in the area would be enhanced. Furthermore, it would promote the growth and tourism industry and help project a good image of our province and country locally and internationally.

Hence, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



CATALINO V. FIGUEROA

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**AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF CALBIGA,
PROVINCE OF SAMAR AS A TOURIST SPOT,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. The Municipality of Calbiga, Province of Samar is hereby declared a Tourist Spot and shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism.

SECTION 2. The Philippine Tourism Authority, in consultation with the Department of Public Works and Highways, shall prepare, within one year from the approval of this Act, a tourism development plan for the Municipality of Calbiga, Province of Samar. The development plan shall provide for the construction and installation of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure as shall encourage tourism in the area and shall be submitted for final approval to the Department of Tourism prior to its implementation.

SECTION 3. Upon the approval by the Department of Tourism of the tourism development plan for the Municipality of Calbiga, Province of Samar, it shall take immediate steps to expedite the implementation thereof and, for the purpose, shall incorporate the same in the Department's overall tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year.

SECTION 4. The amount necessary for the development of the Municipality of Calbiga, Province of Samar as a tourist zone and for the construction and installation of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure shall be charged to the appropriations for the Department of Tourism under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the operation and maintenance of the tourist zone shall be included in the annual budget of the Municipality of Calbiga.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,