

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

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3255



Introduced by Honorable Catalino V. Figueroa

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Municipality of Paranas, 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 Paranas. It is one of Samar's towns that boast of the Kinabut-an Spring which is a refreshing hideout from the maddening life in the city and which urban dwellers find alluring. The spring is about 40 minutes away from the province's capital town of Catbalogan and is located in *Barangay Patag*.

Barangay Buray in Paranas is the intersection between the provinces of Samar and Eastern Samar. It is the junction where people from both provinces converge after a long ride either to or from Manila or Tacloban.

Paranas is where one can experience the *Bagolan* Festival. At the end of the backbreaking work of *Pangopras* (coconut harvest), processing farmers from the town gather to drink *tuba*, share stories and laughter and offer thanksgiving. During the merry-making, the farmers break into dance accompanied by the sounds and rhythm of the *bagol* (coconut shell). The said festival won the grand prize in the 1998 and 1999 Festival Competition.

One can go to Paranas by plane via Tacloban City traversing through the San Juanico Bridge and the well-built Maharlika Highway. It is also forty minutes away from Samar's capital town of Catbalogan. Being one of Samar's progressive towns and having been adjudged as the cleanest town in the province, Paranas' 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.



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**AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF PARANAS,
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 Paranas, 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 Paranas, 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 Paranas, 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 Paranas, 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 Paranas.

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

Approved,