

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4866

INTRODUCED BY **REP. FERJENEL G. BIRON, M.D.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

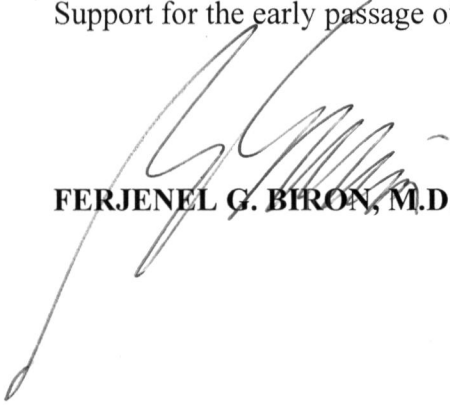
This bill seeks to declare the Bulabog- Putian National Park and Barangays Moroboro, Lincud, Camambugan, Caguyuman, and Tulatula-an in the Municipality of Dingle as a special eco-tourism zone.

The Bulabog-Putian National Park and the abovementioned barangays which happen to be situated in the heart of the Province of Iloilo, the Municipality of Dingle, contain the only limestone rock formation in the island of Panay excluding Guimaras Island. As an old growth forest, it is an excellent laboratory for the study of flora and fauna. It is also bestowed by nature with live springs and natural cave formations that hold immense tourism potential.

The area is not only an ideal sanctuary for adventure seekers, nature lovers, trekkers, climbers, bird watchers, campers, cave goers and excursionists. By way of history, one of the forest caves in the area is Lungib, which holds the distinction of serving as an armory of Panay Revolucionarios. Near the cave is the historical landmark of the "Cry of Lincud" otherwise known as the Cry of Panay, the first shout for Philippine Independence which signaled the revolt of the people of Panay against the Spanish regime. That makes a visit to the Bulabog-Putian Mountains both a communion with nature and reunion with history.

Given the potential of the place, there is a need to hasten the development of the Bulabog-Putian Mountains and promote its appreciation by our people which can be made possible only if it is declared as a special eco-tourism zone.

Support for the early passage of this bill is therefore earnestly sought.


FERJENEL G. BIRON, M.D.

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AN ACT DECLARING THE BULABOG- PUTIAN NATIONAL PARK AND BARANGAYS MOROBORO, LINCUD, CAMAMBUGAN, CAGUYUMAN, AND TULATULA-AN IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DINGLE AS A SPECIAL ECO-TOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS, THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a sustainable tourism industry. Towards this end, the country shall formulate effective strategies to enable the industry to become a major source of livelihood and employment as well rationalize all efforts relative to environmental protection. All efforts then in pursuing an increased share of the global tourism market must be consistent with the concerns relative to the ecosystem.

SECTION 2. Pursuant to this public policy, the Bulabog National Park and Barangays Moroboro, Licud, Camambugan, Caguyuman and Tulatula-an in the Municipality of Dingle, Province of Iloilo are hereby declared as special eco-tourism zone.

SECTION 3. Within a year from the approval of this act the Department of Tourism, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the local government units, and with other concerned agencies of the government, shall prepare an eco-tourist master plan, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations, review and strengthen existing local structural framework to ensure the preservation of the natural resources of the area.

SECTION 4. The Department of Tourism shall take immediate steps to implement said development plan and shall incorporate the same in its overall development program for the ensuing calendar year.

SECTION 5. The Department of Tourism shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be taken from the appropriation of the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SECTION 7. All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations, and other issuance contrary to or inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,