

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



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5399

Introduced by **HONORABLE SUHARTO T. MANGUDADATU**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

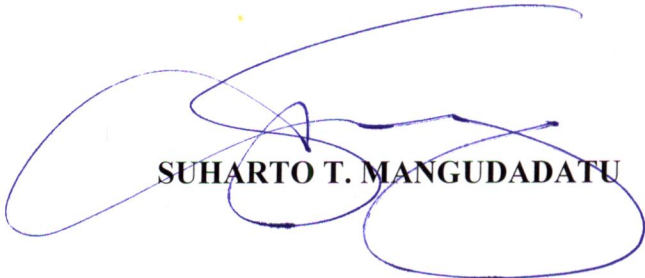
Article XII, Section 2, paragraph 1 of the Constitution states that “xxx the exploration, development and utilization of natural resources shall be under the full control and supervision of the xxx”. Mandated as such, the State is, therefore, obligated to fulfill this task. Economic development and material advancement should come with exhilarating natural wonders. Their full utilization and development, therefore, is an integral part of our march towards progress.

It is for this reason that tourism is one of the top earners among our country’s growing industries. The domestic and global promotion of tourist spots has dramatically increased through the concerted effort of the Department of Tourism and the Philippine Tourism Authority. Their vigorous advertising campaign is netting the country huge revenues.

This bill complements our government’s drive to realize its tourism goals. It proposes to develop the **Panes Cave** in Barangay Lasak, Columbio, Sultan Kudarat province into a world class tourist destination. The cave, although, viable as a tourist spot has been neglected and isolated due to financial constraints. Yet, its charm and serenity has gained prominence and popularity among foreign travelers and local residents. The cave offers various attractions, such as a beautiful mountain and a wide variety of flora and fauna. It has hundreds of room-like structures made of stalactites and stalagmites. It possesses the allurements of typical tourist spot with a beauty, which is inherent in its character.

Thus, in line with the Province’s goal of generating additional resources for its various developments undertaking through the sustainable and effective utilization of its resources, this proposed measure is being submitted for consideration.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


SUHARTO T. MANGUDADATU

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE PANES CAVE AND ITS PREMISES LOCATED IN
BARANGAY LASAK, COLUMBIO, SULTAN KUDARAT PROVINCE AS A
TOURIST SPOT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SEC. 1. The Panes Cave and its premises located in Barangay Lasak, Columbio, Sultan Kudarat Province is hereby declared as a tourist spot. As such, it shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourist spots.

SEC. 2. The Department of Tourism, in coordination with the Philippine Tourism Authority and other concerned agencies of the government, shall, within one year after the approval of this Act, prepare the development plan involving the construction, installation and/or maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure which shall enhance tourism in the area; Provided, that said development plan shall ensure the preservation of the natural beauty and historical significance thereof.

SEC. 3. The Department of Tourism shall take immediate steps to implement said development plan and incorporate the same in the Department's overall tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year.

SEC. 4. The Department of Tourism shall likewise promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the Appropriation of the Department of Tourism under the current Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of said tourist spot shall be included in the annual Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. This act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.