



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

Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 687



Introduced by : **Honorable GEORGE P. ARNAIZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Twin Lakes of Balinsasayao and Danao, situated at the Municipality of Sibulan, Province of Oriental Negros, as tourist spots.

The Twin Lakes are two (2) small deep freshwater lakes rising at 1,000 meters above sea level and separated by a narrow mountain ridge, situated in a hollow between four (4) mountains, Lake Balinsasayao to the East and Lake Danao to the Southeast.

The Twin Lakes is one of the major tourist attractions in the Province and is a protected natural park, which is home to an expensive ecosystem and biodiversity. The lake has a rich fish fauna, including a number of fish species and the surrounding dipterocarp forests are rich in bird life.

The lake is teeming with fish, making it an ideal fishing ground. The calm and cool water also make it perfect for swimming, boating and kayaking or just sitting under one of the small huts to take in the view and the fresh mountain air.

While the tourism potential in the area has been tapped for several years both by local, and national, and international tourists, it is the intention of this bill to further improve tourism in the locality by establishing the Twin Lakes as a tourist destination area.

While tourism development needs to be planned along sustainable principles for a long term survival of the resources, this bill mandates the preparation of a comprehensive development plan involving the construction, rehabilitation and installation of appropriate and nature-friendly facilities not only to upgrade the Twin Lakes as a

tourist destination, but also to ensure the protection, conservation, and improvement of the natural resources surrounding the Twin Lakes.

In view of the policy of the State to promote and maximize the contribution of tourism as a means for economic development, early approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Arnaiz', with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

GEORGE P. ARNAIZ
Representative
2nd District, Oriental Negros



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AN ACT

DECLARING THE TWIN LAKES OF BALINSASAYAO AND DANAOS LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SIBULAN, PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL NEGROS AS TOURIST SPOTS, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. The Twin Lakes of Balinsasayao and Danaos are hereby declared tourist spots. As such it shall be accorded with priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourist spots.

SECTION 2. The Department of Tourism, in accordance with the local government units, the Representative of the Second Congressional District and other concerned agencies of the government shall, within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, prepare a development plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure as shall enhance tourism in the area; Provided, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural resources of the area.

SECTION 3. The Department of Tourism shall take immediate steps in implementing the tourism development plan that will suit the natural characteristic of the Twin Lakes and shall incorporate the same in its overall development plans and programs for national implementation.

SECTION 4. It shall also be the responsibility of the DOT to promote the Twin Lakes as tourism areas in all its national, regional and local promotion programs.

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

SECTION 6. The Secretary of the Department of Tourism shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be charged against the internally generated funds of the Philippine Tourism Authority and/or the appropriations in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. All laws, rules, regulations, proclamations, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended accordingly.

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

Approved,