



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

Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. ~~692~~



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Mabinay Caves in the Municipality of Mabinay, Province of Oriental Negros, as tourist destination.

Mabinay, located 87 kilometers northwest of Dumaguete City, holds some of the country's most fascinating caves. The Odloman cave is 8,870 meters long and has a vertical range of 82 meters. As per record, it is the second longest cave system in the Philippines. Meanwhile, Odloman Cave situated has large galleries, many small corridors, active streams and interesting obstacles. Cayaso Cave has a subterranean river flowing beneath its main chamber. It measures 2,222 meters long and ranks as the 9th longest cave in the Philippines.

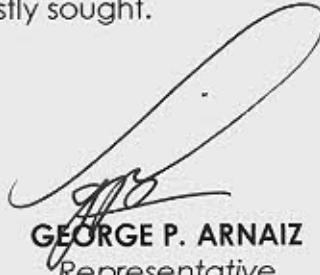
Panligawan Cave on the other hand has a big gaping hole upfront and requires a descent. It is a short one but has a skylight in the middle. The nearby Pandalian Cave is physically similar to Panligawan Cave – short but cavernous. Then there is the Crystal Cave, so called because of the many stalactites and stalagmites stuffing the place. Some of these have formed into pillars or columns, some into draperies that appear to shroud some sections. The Crystal Cave has a length of 209 meters and a depth of 5 meters.

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 Mabinay Caves 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 Mabinay Caves as a tourist destination, but also to ensure the protection, conservation, and improvement of the natural resources surrounding the caves.

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', is positioned above the printed name.

GEORGE P. ARNAIZ
Representative

2nd District, Oriental Negros



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AN ACT

DECLARING MABINAY CAVES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MABINAY, PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL NEGROS AS TOURIST DESTINATION, 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 Mabinay Caves is hereby declared tourist destination. 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 destination.

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 Mabinay Caves 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 Mabinay Caves 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,