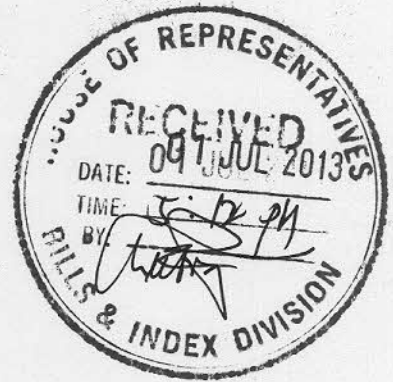


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 717



Introduced by HON. FLORENCIO C. GARAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the famed Enchanted River located in Barangay Talisay, Municipality of Hinatuan, Province of Surigao del Sur as a Protected Area under the category of Natural Park, providing for its management and for other purposes.

Nestled within the mountainside and protected by dense forest covers, visitors to the area are pleasantly surprised and awed by the Enchanted Rivers' mesmerizing beauty. Its enchantment has beguiled and captivated tourists far and wide, making the once-hidden blue lagoon a favorite tourist destination. Yet, while the influx of visitors has its definite advantages, it also threatens the ecological balance and biodiversity of the Enchanted River. The Enchanted River is home to numerous species of marine life, as well as to various species of flora and fauna. It is this natural wildlife which gives the river its enchantment and thus must be protected.

It is therefore crucial that the Enchanted River is declared a natural park, providing for its careful management so as to prevent the river's degradation and ensure the protection, preservation and conservation of its natural beauty and ecological balance.

Considering its national and local significance, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


FLORENCIO C. GARAY

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 717

Introduced by Honorable Florencio C. Garay

AN ACT

DECLARING THE ENCHANTED RIVER LOCATED IN BARANGAY TALISAY, MUNICIPALITY OF HINATUAN, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR, AS A PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE CATEGORY OF NATURAL PARK, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. The Enchanted River in Barangay Talisay, Municipality of Hinatuan, Province of Surigao del Sur is hereby declared a protected area under the category of a natural park, worthy of national concern and budgetary assistance for its development and preservation as a world-class tourism and ecology park.

SEC. 2. The Municipal Government of Hinatuan shall administer and manage the Enchanted River National Park in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Tourism and the Provincial Government of Surigao del Sur.

For this purpose, the Municipal Government of Hinatuan shall create a Management Committee which shall formulate, develop and implement policies, plans and programs for the development of the Enchanted River National Park. Said Management Committee shall be chaired by the Municipal Mayor of Hinatuan and shall have, as members, a representative from (a) the Office of the Congressman of the Second District of Surigao del Sur; (b) the Sangguniang Panlungsod (c) the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (d) the Department of Tourism, and two (2) representatives coming from the private sector, particularly from duly-registered non-government organizations (NGOs) and people's organizations (POs) advocating tourism and ecology.

SEC. 3. The amount of Twenty Million Pesos (P20,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated annually to carry out the implementation of this Act, charged against the national budget of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Tourism, and included as an itemized expenditure authorized under the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,