

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1303



Introduced by Honorable Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Mighty Cave Park and its premises, which is located in the Municipality of Tagoloan, Lanao del Norte, as a tourist spot in line with the national government's thrust of enhancing the country's tourism sector as a pillar of national development.

The Mighty Cave is a newly discovered cave in Tagoloan, Lanao del Norte. It is blessed with amazing natural scenery of surrounding springs and waterfalls, not to mention the cool weather in the area. With these natural blessings, it is now known as the amazing cave in Mindanao.

The Municipality of Tagoloan, with the assistance of the provincial government of the Province of Lanao del Norte, has devoted its resources to develop the cave as a tourist attraction, in view of the site's tourism potentials and the corresponding economic benefits that it may bring to the municipality and its residents. Improvements were introduced and The Mighty Cave Park was formally inaugurated on June 21, 2009 during the 40th Araw ng Tagoloan celebration and was opened since then to the public. However, so much is yet to be desired in terms of developing the site as a viable tourist destination without compromising its sustainability as an ecologically-sensitive natural site – a task that far exceeds the capabilities of the host LGUs.

It is, therefore, the objective of this bill to develop the Mighty Cave Park to its maximum potential and promote it as one of the leading tourist destinations in Mindanao and the country with its natural beauty and unique attractions, by declaring it as a national tourist spot. Doing so will certainly increase awareness and appreciation for the site and will foster both local and international interest and attention that may eventually increase economic activity in the host municipality and promote the province of Lanao del Norte as a viable tourist destination.

In view of these premises, the prompt approval of this bill is earnestly sought and recommended.


REP. IMELDA QUIBRANZA-DIMAPORO
1st District, Lanao del Norte

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE MIGHTY CAVE PARK AND ITS PREMISES LOCATED IN
TAGOLOAN, LANA DEL NORTE PROVINCE AS A TOURIST SPOT AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The Mighty Cave Park and its premises located in Tagoloan, Lanao del Norte Province is hereby declared as a tourist spot. As such, it shall be accorded 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 DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and other concerned agencies of the government, shall, within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, prepare the development plan involving the construction, installation and/or maintenance of such appropriate facilities which shall enhance tourism in the area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation of the natural beauty and historical significance thereof.

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

SECTION 4. The DOT shall likewise promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. The amount necessary to implementation the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations under the annual General Appropriations Act and/or internally generated funds of the DOT.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,