

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



Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4999

Introduced by **Hon. Frederick F. Abueg**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proposed bill seeks to declare Bakbakan Falls located in Barangay Mainit, Municipality of Brooke's Point, Palawan as tourist destination. It can be reached by an hour trek from Mainit Spring, passing through slippery trails and river crossings. Its waters drop over a steep rock face and fall approximately 64 meters in height into a natural pool while the volume of water displaced is moderate. The main pool of Bakbakan falls, however, is only four (4) feet deep and water temperature is very cool.

At present, local tourists have endeavored reaching Bakbakan Falls through internet research and word of mouth. With the declaration of Bakbakan Falls as a tourist destination, the Department of Tourism is a big help to promote the area and provide for improvement and potential source of income for the local government and the people residing within the area.

In view of the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable, and ethically and socially equitable for local communities, as declared in Republic Act 9593, otherwise known as "The Tourism Act of 2009," the approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "F. Abueg", written over a horizontal line.

FREDERICK F. ABUEG
Representative, 2nd District of Palawan

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AN ACT

**DECLARING BAKBAKAN FALLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BROOKE'S
POINT, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AS TOURIST DESTINATION,
PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

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

1 SECTION 1. The Bakbakan Falls located in Barangay Mainit,
2 Municipality of Brooke's Point, Palawan is hereby declared tourist destination.
3 As such, it shall be accorded with priority development by the Department of
4 Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the
5 development of tourist destination.

6 SEC. 2. The Department of Tourism, in accordance with the local
7 government units and other concerned agencies of the government shall, within
8 one (1) year after the approval of this Act, prepare a development plan involving
9 the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and
10 infrastructure as shall enhance tourism in the area; *Provided*, That said
11 development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural
12 resources of the area.

1 SEC. 3. The Department of Tourism shall take immediate steps in
2 implementing the tourism development plan that will suit the natural
3 characteristic of Bakbakan Falls and shall incorporate the same in its overall
4 development plans and programs for national implementation.

5 SEC. 4. It shall also be the responsibility of the DOT to promote
6 Bakbakan Falls as tourism area in all its national, regional and local promotion
7 programs.

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

10 SEC. 6. The Secretary of the Department of Tourism shall include in the
11 Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall
12 be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its
13 enactment into law and thereafter.

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

16 SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,