

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5689



Introduced by Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Sta. Cruz Falls, Located in Barangay Sta. Cruz, Municipality of Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte, as a tourism development site to ensure the full development of the site as a viable tourism destination in line with the national government's thrust of enhancing the country's tourism sector as a pillar of national development.

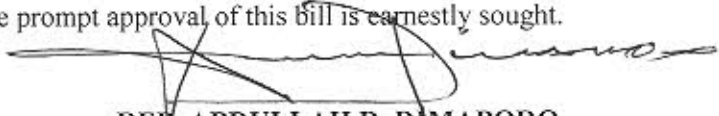
Sta. Cruz Falls is one of Kapatagan's popular tourist destinations. It is approximately two kilometers from the national highway and is surrounded with lush vegetation. The trail leading to the falls is challenging and suits more for the adventurous type of tourists who will have to cross a river and hike for about an hour to reach the waterfalls. When they reach the foot of the falls, however, they will surely realize that the time spent and the hardships they went through were all worth it. A sight to behold will surely delight them with the site's unspoiled environs that add to its mysteriously enthralling grandeur.

Despite its vast potentials as a viable tourism destination, however, Sta. Cruz Falls is still too far away from its maximum potential. Accessibility is a big concern for tourists, save for the adventurous type. Facilities are yet to be built to add value to its natural beauty and entice more tourists to come.

With proper development, the Sta. Cruz Falls has the potential to become a prime tourist destination. It can be marketed in conjunction with the other tourism sites in Lanao del Norte. While the Province boasts of a number of waterfalls, the Sta. Cruz Falls has its unique characteristics that complement the attractions of the others. Hence, the national government should step in to introduce new and appropriate developments in the premises of the site to further enhance its beauty and promote it properly as an attractive tourist destination in the national and international levels without compromising its sustainability as an ecologically-sensitive natural site. These tasks may unduly burden the host LGUs in terms of technical and financial capabilities.

It is, therefore, the objective of this bill to develop the Sta. Cruz Falls to its maximum potential and promote it as one of the leading tourist destinations in Northern Mindanao with its natural beauty and unique attractions, by declaring it as tourism development site. 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.


REP. ABDULLAH D. DIMAPORO
Second District, Lanao del Norte

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AN ACT

DECLARING STA. CRUZ FALLS LOCATED IN BARANGAY STA. CRUZ, MUNICIPALITY OF KAPATAGAN, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE AS A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE

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

SECTION 1. The Sta. Cruz Falls located in Barangay Sta. Cruz, Municipality of Kapatagan, Province of Lanao del Norte is hereby declared a tourism development site. As such, the Department of Tourism (DOT) is mandated to incorporate it in the Philippine National Tourism Development Plan.

SECTION 2. The DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and the provincial and municipal local government units concerned, shall, within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, prepare a tourism development plan for the area that will ensure its viability and sustainability, and undertake the implementation of the said plan.

SECTION 3. The DOT, in coordination with the provincial and municipal local government units concerned, shall issue such rules and regulations as it may deem necessary for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and/or internally generated funds of the Department.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,