

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5994**



*Introduced by Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo
and Rep. Imelda Quibranza Dimaporo*

EXPLANATORY NOTE

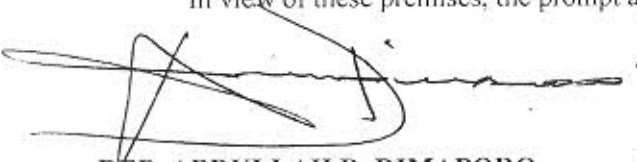
This bill seeks to declare the Samiorang Falls, Located in Barangay Samiorang, Municipality of Magsaysay, Lanao del Norte, as a tourism development site to ensure the full development of the site as a viable tourism destination in line with the national government's thrust of enhancing the country's tourism sector as a pillar of national development. Its Samiorang Falls is one of Magsaysay's popular tourist destinations.

Despite its vast potentials as a viable tourism destination, however, the Magsaysay Samiorang Falls are 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 Samiorang 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 water falls, the Samiorang 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 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 Samiorng 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


REP. IMELDA QUIBRANZA DIMAPORO
First District, Lanao del Norte

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AN ACT

DECLARING SAMIORANG FALLS LOCATED IN BARANGAY SAMIORANG, MUNICIPALITY OF MAGSAYSAY, 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 Samiorang Falls located in Barangay Samiorang, Municipality of Magsaysay, 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, with Magsaysay Samiorang Falls Local Advisory Council composed of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority Chief Operating Officer as Chairman, Governor of Lanao del Norte as Vice Chairman, Mayor of Magsaysay as member, 2 members of the Private Sectors as recommended to the DOT Secretary by the Governor.

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,