

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. **6102**

Introduced by HONORABLE SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Unknown to many but are exponentially gaining attention, Kalanay Falls is a tourist destination in Barangay Nabangig, Municipality of Palanas in the Province of Masbate. Distinct for its theatrical form, tourists are free to enjoy the view of this natural wonder and are satisfied with its fresh and cool waters. Visitors can also enjoy horseback rides in the area and get entertained by barangay folks with their traditional dance performances.

Despite its economic potential, this natural treasure remain undeveloped. The lack of progress in the area can be traced to non-existent attention coming from the national government.

Considering that it is a policy of the State to undertake the sustainable development of the environment simultaneously with the right of the people to a healthy and balanced ecology, it is imperative that the national government provide the needed care and attention to Kalanay Falls. In order to achieve these goals, Kalanay Falls should be declared as an ecotourism spot wherein an ecotourism council will be established to steer the area to fame and progress while maintaining the sanctity of its natural resources. Hence, the passage of this bill is urgently sought.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, belonging to Scott Davies S. Lanete, M.D.

SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.
Representative
Third District, Province of Masbate

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**AN ACT DECLARING THE KALANAY FALLS AND ITS PREMISES AS AN
ECOTOURISM SITE, ESTABLISHING THE KALANAY FALLS ECOTOURISM
COUNCIL, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as "Kalanay Falls Ecotourism Act."

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology through the promotion of activities designed for environmental protection and conservation.

Sec. 3. *The Kalanay Falls Ecotourism Council.* There is hereby created an ecotourism council, to be known as the Kalanay Falls Ecotourism Council, hereinafter known as the Council to be composed of one representative each from accredited non-government organizations and people's organizations engaged in ecotourism, one recognized indigenous people's federation, reputable travel organizations, the academe, and the local chief executive of the Municipality of Palanas who shall sit as the chairman of the Council.

Palanas' local legislative body shall appoint the members of the Council for a term of five (5) years, renewable for one term.

The Department of Tourism and Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall assist the Council in its task of pursuing the objectives of this Act.

Sec. 5. *Functions and Responsibilities of the Council.* The Council shall be responsible for the following:

- a. Study, adopt, and from time to time update an Ecotourism Master plan and supervise the implementation of the corresponding programs and activities therein;

- b. Assess and evaluate the potential impact of development to the environmental safety and well-being of the site;
- c. Conduct consultations with the local residents of the site to be affected by ecotourism development to assimilate their cultural values and beliefs in the master plan and other programs;
- d. Provide technical and financial assistance to communities in the site;
- e. Formulate rules and regulations which shall prohibit illegal fishing and related activities;
- f. Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

Sec. 6. *Ecotourism Fund.* To carry out the purposes of this Act, there shall be created a special fund called the Kalanay Falls Ecotourism Fund, which shall be sourced from at least 40% of the environmental fee, which shall be collected by the Council from all visiting tourists.

Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions, which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.