

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5448**



Introduced by Representative Florida P. Robes

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare Kaytitinga Falls and Mount Balagbag in the City of San Jose Del Monte Bulacan as protected areas in accordance with Republic Act No. 7586 which provides for the establishment and management of a "National Integrated Protected Areas System" which shall encompass outstandingly remarkable areas and biologically important public lands that are habitats of rare and endangered species of plants and animals, bio-geographic zones and related ecosystems, whether terrestrial, wetland or marine, all of which shall be designated as "protected areas."

Also, the declaration of these natural wonders as protected areas is in "cognizant of the profound impact of man's activities on all components of the natural environment particularly the effect of increasing population, resource exploitation and industrial advancement and recognizing the critical importance of protecting and maintaining the natural biological and physical diversities of the environment notably on areas with biologically unique features to sustain human life and development, as well as plant and animal life." Further, the State is mandated to secure for the Filipino people of present and future generations the perpetual existence of all natural resources and wealth through the establishment of a

comprehensive system of integrated protected areas as enshrined in the Constitution.

Kaytitinga Falls , an natural attraction in the City of San Jose Del Monte can be found in the elevated barangay of San Isidro which is located at the easternmost part of the City. Consisting of a three-level falls, its geographical setting is rich in different kinds of trees, plants and other endemic species thrive in these areas which deserve protection and preservation. Also, the Dumagats, an indigenous people, live nearby, indicating that there also exists a culture that must be protected. The Dumagats act as protectors of the said natural habitat. Meanwhile, Mount Balagbag, which is about 777 meters above sea level, is actually the gateway to the falls. On top of its peak, one can experience a breathtaking view of Metro Manila as well as the provinces of Bulacan and Rizal. This too will boost the eco-tourism potentials of the City.

Considering the foregoing, the approval of this proposal is earnestly sought.



FLORIDA P. ROBES

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5448

Introduced by Representative Florida P. Robes

**AN ACT DECLARING KAYTITINGA FALLS AND MOUNT BALAGBAG
IN THE CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, PROVINCE OF BULACAN AS
A PROTECTED AREA, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Declaration Clause. Kaytitinga Falls and Mount Balagbag, situated in the City of San Jose Del Monte, Province of Bulacan, are hereby declared as protected areas, in accordance with Republic Act No. 7586.

SEC. 2. Creation of a Protected Area Management Board of San Jose Del Monte. - There is hereby created a Protected Area Management Board of San Jose Del Monte which shall have the sole jurisdiction, power and authority for all matters that may affect the biodiversity, conservation, protection and sustainable development of the protected areas.

SEC. 3. Composition of the Board.- The Board shall be composed of the following:

- (a) The Regional Director of the DENR Region III;
- (b) The City Mayor of San Jose Del Monte;
- (c) The Congressional Representative of CSJDM;
- (d) The Chairperson of the Committee on Environment of the Sangguniang Panglungsod;
- (e) The Barangay Chairperson where the protected areas are located;
- (f) At least two (2) representatives of non-government organizations with environmental advocacies; and
- (g) A Representative from the tribal community

SEC. 4. Powers and Functions of the Board.- The Board shall perform the duties and functions enumerated in the implementing rules and regulations of RA 7586. In addition, the Board shall have the following powers and functions :

- (a) Issue rules and regulations pertaining to the implementation of the provisions of this Act, for the resolutions of conflicts relative to the management of the protected areas and in the conduct of business including the creation of appropriate committees;
- (b) Approve development and management plans designed to protect, promote and preserve the areas;
- (c) Establish criteria and set fees for the issuance of permits to the conduct of activities in the protected areas;
- (d) Recommend the deputation of appropriate individuals, including local community leaders, for the enforcement of the laws, rules and regulations governing the conduct or management of the protected areas;
- (e) Approve fees and charges in accordance with DENR Administrative Order No. 51, series of 200, and raise funds for protected areas;
- (f) Administer all funds allocated to the protected areas and render proper accounting;
- (g) Recommend appropriate policy changes to the DENR and other government agencies; and
- (h) Such other powers and functions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Act.

SEC. 5. Protected Area Office. - To oversee that the mandate of this Act is fully implemented, the KFMB Protected Area Office is hereby created under the management of DENR Region III and shall be headed by a Supervisor. The functions and structure of the Office shall be provided in the Implementing Rules and Regulations.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources through the Regional Director shall formulate and issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

SEC. 7. Appropriations. - The Secretary of Environment and Natural resources shall include in the Department's programs the

improvement and maintenance of said protected areas, and the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. Construction and Suppletory Application of Existing Laws. - The provisions of this Act shall be construed liberally in favor of achieving biodiversity, conservation, protection and sustainable development. The provisions of RA 7256, existing environmental and forestry laws and their corresponding rules and regulations not inconsistent thereto shall have suppletory effect in the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. - If, for any reason, any part or section of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, such other parts not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, proclamations, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,