

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5736



Introduced by Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Man-Made Lake and its premises, which is located in the Municipality of Balo-i, Lanao del Norte, as an ecotourism zone in line with the national government's thrust of enhancing the country's tourism sector as a pillar of national development.

The man-made lake in the Municipality of Balo-I is a viable area for tourism development. The local government of Balo-I, with the help of the Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte has devoted its resources to further develop the man-made lake in lieu of its potential as a tourist spot and its benefits to the residents and host municipality. Thus, the man-made lake is poised to be developed as a world-class tourist destination without compromising its sustainability as an ecologically-sensitive natural site – a task that far exceeds the capabilities of the host LGUs.

It is therefore the primary objective of this bill to promote the man-made lake in the Municipality of Balo-I to become an ecotourism zone, and to ensure that the maintenance and sustainability of the said lake can be best addressed with the help of the national government. This bill will also increase the potential investment in the area when the man-made lake is declared a national tourist destination as its promotion will be widespread through the Department of Tourism's extensive awareness campaigns.

In view of these premises, the prompt approval of this bill is earnestly sought and recommended.


REP. MOHAMAD KHALID Q. DIMAPORO
1st District, Lanao del Norte

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE MAN-MADE LAKE AND ITS PREMISES LOCATED IN BALO-I, LANA DEL NORTE PROVINCE AS AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the state to promote a sustainable ecotourism industry to attract local and foreign tourists while making them aware of the urgent need to conserve our natural blessings.

SECTION 2. The Man-Made Lake and its premises located in Balo-i, Lanao del Norte Province is hereby declared as an ecotourism zone. As such, it shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT).

SECTION 3. The management and development of the Man-Made Lake Ecotourism Park in Balo-I shall be under the Lanao del Norte Tourism Council, which shall promulgate the rules and regulations governing the implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Mighty Cave Ecotourism Park Master Plan.* The Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), in coordination with the Department of Tourism and Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall develop a master plan to be approved by the Lanao del Norte Tourism Council.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, including the Feasibility Study and the preparation of the master plan of the ecotourism zone, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and/or the internally-generated fund of the Department or from TIEZA.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,