

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

Seventeenth Congress
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7852**



Introduced by **Congressman Leopoldo N. Bataoil**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the "Batis ng Kalikasan" in the Municipality of Aguilar, Province of Pangasinan as an ecotourism area.

"Batis ng Kalikasan" is located about 1.3kms. away from the poblacion proper. It comprises of fourteen (14) lagoons with a depth of 5'6". The serene and calming landscape of the lagoon is a must see for nature lovers and those who love to swim in the clear water surrounded by unaltered trees.

Some activities that one can now do around the "Batis ng Kalikasan" aside from swimming are zip line and mountain trekking. Road widening is now undergoing and concrete stairs going to the lagoons are being constructed for easy access by the residents and tourists alike.

With this bill, the "Batis ng Kalikasan" will be provided with all the amenities and facilities. It will attract more local and foreign tourists hence, improve economic condition of the community.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


LEOPOLDO N. BATAOIL

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE "BATIS NG KALIKASAN" IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
AGUILAR, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN AS AN ECOTOURISM AREA AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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 the "Batis ng Kalikasan Ecotourism Act".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable and equitable for the local communities.

SEC. 3. "Batis ng Kalikasan" Ecotourism Destination. - "Batis ng Kalikasan" in Barangay Laoag, Sitio Mapita, Municipality of Aguilar, Province of Pangasinan is hereby declared as an ecotourism area. Its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ~~an~~ ecotourism sites.

The DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and other concerned agencies of the government shall, within six (6) months after the approval of this Act, prepare the development plan which shall enhance tourism in the area: Provided, that said development plan shall ensure the preservation of the natural beauty and historical significance thereof.

SEC. 4. Development Plan. The Secretary of Tourism shall take immediate steps to implement the said development plan and incorporate the same in the overall tourism development program of the Department for the ensuing calendar year.

SEC. 5. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** The Secretary of Tourism shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. **Appropriations.** The amount needed for the immediate implementation of this Act is hereby appropriated from the funds of the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter such sum as maybe needed for the continued implementation, operation and maintenance of the "Batis ng Kalikasan" shall be included in the annual General Appropriation Act.

SEC. 7. **Effectivity.** This act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,