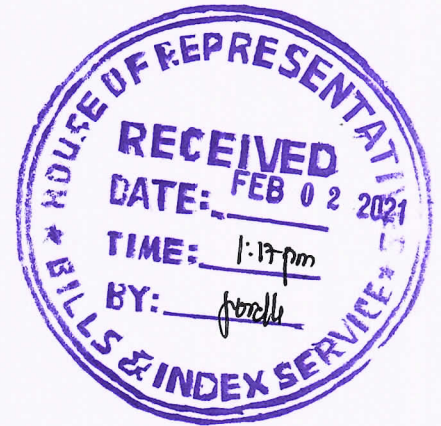




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 8603



Introduced by **HON. JOSEFINA B. TALLADO**

**AN ACT DECLARING MALIGAYA FALLS IN BARANGAY SUBMAKIN,
MUNICIPALITY OF LABO, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND
APROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare Maligaya Falls as an eco-tourism site in the Municipality of Labo, Province of Camarines Norte.

Maligaya Falls, located in Barangay Submakin, is one of the hidden gems of the municipality of Labo. This falls is unperturbed by human intervention and its water is clear as crystal. This representation has personally visited the falls several time and it never fails to amaze. While there is a considerable hike from the main barangay road, the trek is very much worth it. Maligaya Falls feature a solid white curtain of gushing waters cascading to a natural pool below.

Although majestic and imposing in its grandeur, very few has visited it because there is no road going there. One can only hike said trail. There is also lack of local funding to harness the falls' full potential and develop its immediate environs.

In proposing to develop the Maligaya Falls into an ecotourism zone, this representation hopes to bolster the magnificence of this falls and at the same time generate economic activity among the residents of Barangay Submakin and the municipality of Labo as a whole and promote a vibrant tourism industry in the province of Camarines Norte.

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


HON. JOSEFINA B. TALLADO
Representative
1st District, Camarines Norte



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

1 **SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the "Maligaya Falls Ecotourism Act".
2

3 **SECTION 2.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a sustainable and effective
4 ecotourism industry to attract tourists, both local and foreign. Towards this end, the country should
5 rationalize all efforts to make the tourism industry a major source of livelihood and an avenue for
6 economic development. Moreover, measures should be taken to ensure that tourism development would
7 be done with a view on the preservation of the existing ecosystem and natural environment.
8

9 **SECTION 3.** The Maligaya Falls in Barangay Submakin, Municipality of Labo, Province of
10 Camarines Norte is hereby declared an ecotourism site. Its development shall be prioritized by the
11 Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the
12 development of ecotourism sites.
13

14 The DOT shall prepare and incorporate the development plan for Maligaya Falls in the overall
15 National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP), pursuant to Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as
16 "The Tourism Act of 2009". The plan shall be implemented jointly by the municipal government of Labo,
17 the local Protected Area Management Board, and the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone
18 Authority (TIEZA).
19

20 **SECTION 4.** The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the
21 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
22 Act and from internally generated funds of the DOT.
23

24 **SECTION 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the DOT, in consultation with
25 the municipal government of Labo, the Representative of the 1st District of Camarines Norte and other

26 concerned government agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations
27 for the proper implementation of this Act.

28
29 **SECTION 6.** The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program, the
30 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
31 Act and internally generated funds of the DOT.

32
33 **SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional
34 or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

35
36 **SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees, and other
37 issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

38
39 **SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
40 the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

41
42 **Approved.**