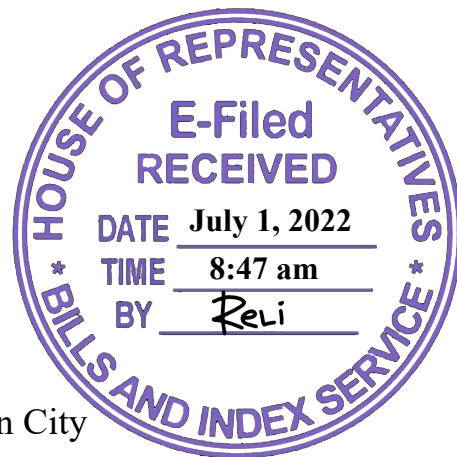




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Constitution Hills, Batasan Complex, Quezon City



NINETEENTH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. 768

Introduced by Representatives **ALFEL M. BASCUG** and **EDDIEBONG G. PLAZA**

**AN ACT DECLARING JORDAN WATERFALLS IN THE CITY OF
BAYUGAN, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR AS AN ECOTOURISM
SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Explanatory Note

This bill seeks to declare Jordan Waterfalls as an ecotourism site in the City of Bayugan, Province of Agusan del Sur.

Jordan Waterfalls located in Barangay Gethsemane, Bayugan City is a treasured tourist spot in the remote area of the City. This hidden beauty is a home to various attractions counting its beautiful mountain scenery, wide variety of flora and fauna and a deep blue water in which tourists can indulge in numerous popular ecotourism related activities such as swimming, hiking, and forest adventures.

This hidden gem has been considered as a tourist attraction to locals but has never been publicly exposed to other tourists in the Philippines and the world. With the lack of needed development and promotion, the tourism potential of the place has been curtailed. Thus, for this gem to be developed and become a fully grown tourism destination, it should be declared as an ecotourism site.

The development of Jordan Waterfalls into an ecotourism site will not just enhance its aesthetic value but will also boost local government income and create employment opportunities for the people of Agusan del Sur.

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



ALFEL M. BASCUG
1ST District, Agusan del Sur



EDDIEBONG G. PLAZA
2ND District, Agusan del Sur



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

SEC. 1. The Jordan Waterfalls located in Barangay Gethsemane, Bayugan City, province of Agusan del Sur is hereby declared an ecotourism site. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism sites.

SEC. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT shall, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and concerned local government units and agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate infrastructure and facilities in the area: Provided, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the

natural beauty and resources of the area.

SEC. 3. The DOT and its concerned attached agencies shall take immediate steps to implement the development plan with due consideration to the natural characteristics of the Jordan Falls, and shall incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the calendar year immediately succeeding the approval of this Act. It shall also include the Jordan Falls in all of its national, regional and local promotion programs.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act, and shall augment such allocation with internally generated funds of the Department.

SEC. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT shall, in consultation with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and concerned government agencies and stakeholders, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,