



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1068



Introduced by Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma
Lone District of Nueva Vizcaya

AN ACT DECLARING NARURON FALLS SITUATED IN BARANGAY OYAO, MUNICIPALITY OF DUPAX DEL NORTE, PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA AS ECO TOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS THERFOR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is a clear mandate of our fundamental law to protect and conserve our environment not only for our benefit but most importantly, for the generations yet to come. Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature."

Further, Section 17, Chapter 2, Title 1, Book 1 of the Republic of 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government code of 1991, "Empower every local government unit to prepare, adopt, implement and monitor their local tourism development plans, enforce standards for tourism enterprises and collect statistical data for tourism purposes."

With the geographic location of the municipality of Dupax del Norte and its richness in natural resources, one of the major thrust and priority programs of the municipality is to uplift the quality of life of the people of the municipality through tourism. The Naruron Falls in barangay Oyao, municipality of Dupax del Norte is a 7 layered falls with the height of 2,634ft. Because of the beauty of this falls and the benefits it provides to the community such as irrigation and source of water energy, we should therefore initiate the move towards its protection and conservation through the promotion of a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable and equitable for the communities.

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

Luisa Lloren Cuaresma
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**AN ACT DECLARING NARURON FALLS SITUATED IN BARANGAY OYAO,
MUNICIPALITY OF DUPAX DEL NORTE, PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA AS ECO
TOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATE 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 “Naruron Falls Act”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy – This Act promotes eco tourism and adheres to the following principles:

- a) Enshrined in the highest law of the land, is the mandate that the States shall promote the ideals of conserving and developing our patrimony and declares as a policy the right to a balanced and healthful ecology;
- b) The establishment of eco-tourism parks managed by stakeholders from local communities translates in real terms the sustainable development paradigm enhancing environmental preservation and economic growth; and
- c) Consistent with national policy that declares eco-tourism as an indispensable element of the national economy and an industry of the national interest and importance,

This project, when developed and managed appropriately could significantly offset the socioeconomic fallout resulting from declined incomes in farming areas. The increased tourist arrival, expansion of business, and increased job opportunities will contribute to the income improvement of family, community and government. Municipality affirms that eco-tourism sites are means to spur investment, employment and growth toward sustainable development.

SECTION 3. Objectives – the project seeks to provide numerous economic benefits to the surrounding community members. Its operation aims to increase income opportunities throughout the year thereby increasing the family income.

The project is likewise viewed to be a means to encourage more tourists to experience mountaineering, hiking, trekking and other similar activities while appreciating the beauty of the falls.

On the part of the municipality, the project intends to support local economy through various goods and services available to the tourists and by increasing its local tax bases through utilization of the locally available fresh produce.

The project aims to provide not only economic benefits but also social and environmental benefits including its resultant long-term effects, some of which are enumerated below:

1. Bring different people together by providing opportunities for cultural exchange;
2. Support local crafts produced by women, out-of-school youths, persons with disabilities, drug surrenders and others;
3. Create a vehicle for educational research and studies; and,
4. Help reduce public health risk against non-organic agricultural products and by promoting physical outdoor activities.

SECTION 5. Naruron Falls Eco Tourism Site - This Act hereby declares Naruron Falls in barangay Oyao, municipality of Dupax del Norte, province of Nueva Vizcaya as an Eco Tourism Site.

SECTION 6. Eco Tourism Master Plan – The Local Government of the province of Nueva Vizcaya, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Tourism (DOT) shall jointly prepare the Ecotourism Master Plan for the Naruron Falls Eco Tourism Site and to promulgate necessary rules and regulations to be implemented by the local government in coordination with concerned government agencies.

SECTION 7. Naruron Falls Eco Tourism Management Board – There is hereby created a Naruron Falls Eco Tourism Management Board which shall formulate strategies and guidelines in the operation, maintenance, promotion and conservation of the park. The Board shall be composed of the municipal Mayor as Chairperson, the municipal Vice Mayor as Vice Chairperson, the Sangguniang Bayan as Secretary, the Municipal Tourism officer, the Sangguniang Bayan Committee Chair on Environment, the Sangguniang Bayan Committee Chair on Budget and Finance, the Municipal Planning Development Officer. Three (3) stakeholders from the local community to appointed by the municipal Mayor, upon recommendation by the Sangguniang Barangay of Oyao, shall serve as members of the management board for a term of three (3) years.

SECTION 8. Appropriations – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of concerned government agencies in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SECTION 9. Implementation – Within sixty (60) days after the implementation of this Act, the DENR in coordination with DOT shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulation to govern the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 10. Separability Clause – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. Effectivity Claluse – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,