



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1907



Introduced by Representative **SOLOMON R. CHUNGALAO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This house measure was originally filed as House Bill No. 8200 in the 18th Congress. It was then approved by the House on January 20, 2021 and was transmitted to Senate on January 25 of the same year. This bill seeks to declare Mt. Kitumman in barangay Tunggod, municipality of Lagawe, in the province of Ifugao, as an ecotourism destination.

Mt. Kitumman, to which the historical Bintacan Cave is situated, is located at the boundary of the municipalities of Lagawe and Kiangnan in the province of Ifugao along side the Ibulao River. It is a common knowledge to locals that during the 2nd World War, Mt. Kitumman served as the watch tower of the Japanese Imperial Army since it was a strategic place to overlook crucial areas and to monitor activities of their enemy. Soldiers took refuge at the Bintacan Cave where they dwelled and stored military ammunition. Today, military debris from broken Japanese pots are still present on the vicinity of the cave including a figure of a snake carved out on the ceiling of the cave entrance.

The approval of this house measure not only attracts local and foreign tourists but also gives high regards to the historical experiences of the people in the province of Ifugao during the Japanese occupation in the country. With its enhancement brought by its ecotourism destination status, Mt. Kitumman shall boost the tourism industry of Ifugao, considering the fact that the province is also the home of the famous rice terraces, hence, provide a significant contribution to improve the local economy of Ifugao.

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

ATTY. SOLOMON R. CHUNGALAO



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AN ACT
DECLARING MT. KITUMMAN LOCATED IN BARANGAY TUNGNGOD IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF LAGawe, PROVINCE OF IFUGAO, AN ECOTOURISM
DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Mount Kitumman located in Barangay Tungngod in the Municipality of Lagawe, Province of Ifugao, where the historical Bintacan Cave is located, is hereby declared an ecotourism destination. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism destinations.

SEC. 2. Within six (6) months after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and other concerned agencies of the government, shall prepare a tourism development plan including the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall enhance

tourism in the area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation of the natural beauty and historical significance of the area.

SEC. 3. The DOT, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and concerned local government units, shall take immediate steps to implement the tourism development plan and incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year.

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 from internally generated funds of the DOT.

SEC. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DOT shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its proper implementation.

SEC. 6. All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, presidential decrees and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,