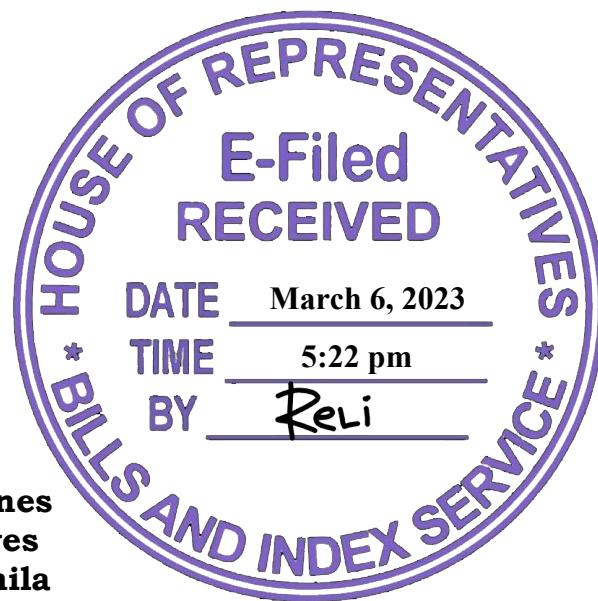




**Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila**

**Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 7474



Introduced by Representative Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill aims to promote and develop the Sinking Bell Tower located in the City of Laoag, Province of Ilocos Norte as a tourism destination to attract local and foreign tourists to visit and appreciate the beauty of the bell tower and its environs. In addition, the law seeks to enhance the economic and social growth of the area by promoting tourism, increasing job opportunities, and improving the living standards of the residents of Laoag City.

The declaration also aims to establish a sustainable and responsible tourism industry that contributes to the preservation of the local community's cultural heritage and traditions.

Overall, the declaration of the Sinking Bell Tower located in the City of Laoag, Province of Ilocos Norte as a tourism destination is a significant step towards the promotion and development of sustainable and responsible tourism in the City of Laoag, Province of Ilocos Norte, and will bring positive economic and social benefits to the area and its residents.

Hence, this representation seeks the passage of this measure.


RUDYS CAESAR G. FARIÑAS I



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HOUSE BILL NO. 7474

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**AN ACT
DECLARING THE SINKING BELL TOWER LOCATED IN THE CITY OF
LAOAG, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE, A TOURISM DESTINATION, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 SECTION 1. The Sinking Bell Tower located in the City of Laoag, Province
2 of Ilocos Norte, is hereby declared a tourism destination. As such, the protection
3 and preservation of the Sinking Bell Tower, as well as the development of the
4 area surrounding it, shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism, subject
5 to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourism destinations.
6

7 SEC. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT shall,
8 in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways, the National
9 Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), the city government of Laoag,
10 and concerned agencies of the government and stakeholders, prepare a
11 tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation and
12 maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure to enhance
13 tourism in the area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the
14 preservation of the historical and cultural significance of the Sinking Bell Tower:
15 *Provided, further*, That any intervention work, activity and development to be
16 carried out in the area shall conform with the provisions of Republic Act No.
17 10066, otherwise known as the “National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009”.
18

19 SEC. 3. The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the tourism
20 development plan and shall incorporate the same in its overall tourism program
21 for the calendar year immediately succeeding the approval of this Act. It shall

1 also include the Sinking Bell Tower in all its national, regional and local
2 promotion programs.

3
4 SEC. 4. The Secretary of DOT and Chairman of the NHCP shall include in
5 their respective programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which
6 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act, and shall augment
7 such allocation with internally generated funds of DOT.

8
9 SEC. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT
10 shall, in consultation with the NHCP, the city government of Laoag, and
11 concerned government agencies and stakeholders, promulgate the necessary
12 rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

13
14 SEC. 6. All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees and other
15 issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed
16 repealed or amended accordingly.

17
18 SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
19 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,