



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **818**



Introduced by Representative LORDAN G. SUAN

AN ACT
DECLARING THE CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO AS THE “WHITEWATER
RAFTING CAPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Adventure tourism continues to thrive as more travelers seek meaningful experiences that blend excitement, nature, and personal well-being. Among the most sought-after outdoor activities is whitewater rafting, a thrilling sport that involves navigating fast-moving rivers using inflatable rafts. Beyond the adrenaline rush it provides, whitewater rafting offers numerous health benefits, including cardiovascular conditioning, muscular development, and stress relief, all while promoting an appreciation for nature.

In the Philippines, the Cagayan River in Cagayan de Oro City has emerged as a premier destination for this sport. Known for its deep waters, steep gradients, unique rock formations, and rich biodiversity, the river provides both challenging and scenic rafting routes. These natural features have made Cagayan de Oro a focal point for domestic and international adventure tourism.

What sets Cagayan de Oro apart is its unique capacity to offer whitewater rafting year-round, regardless of the season. As a result, whitewater rafting has become the city’s flagship tourism activity, playing a significant role in supporting the local economy by generating decent

employment, encouraging entrepreneurship, and attracting sustainable tourism investments.

Declaring Cagayan de Oro as the Whitewater Rafting Capital of the Philippines will not only formalize its status as a leading destination for this exhilarating activity but also open further opportunities for economic development, community engagement, and environmental conservation. Such recognition will encourage continued preservation of the Cagayan River and its surrounding ecosystem, ensuring that its natural beauty and resources remain protected for generations to come.

This legislative measure, therefore, seeks to affirm and support Cagayan de Oro's distinguished role in Philippine tourism by officially designating it as the Whitewater Rafting Capital of the Philippines. Through this declaration, we aim to promote inclusive and sustainable growth, preserve natural heritage, and elevate the country's reputation as a top adventure tourism destination in Southeast Asia.

In light of the preceding, this bill's approval is fervently sought.



LORDAN G. SUAN

Cagayan de Oro City – 1st District



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

1 **SECTION 1.** The City of Cagayan de Oro is hereby declared 1 the
2 “Whitewater Rafting Capital of the Philippines” in recognition of its status as
3 a premier destination for whitewater rafting that provides year-round
4 rafting opportunities for tourists.

5
6 **SEC. 2.** The Department of Tourism shall include and feature the City of
7 Cagayan de Oro as the “Whitewater Rafting Capital of the Philippines” in its
8 national and regional promotion programs.

9
10 **SEC. 3.** All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, proclamations,
11 presidential decrees, and other issuances inconsistent with any of the
12 provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

13
14 **SEC. 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
15 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,