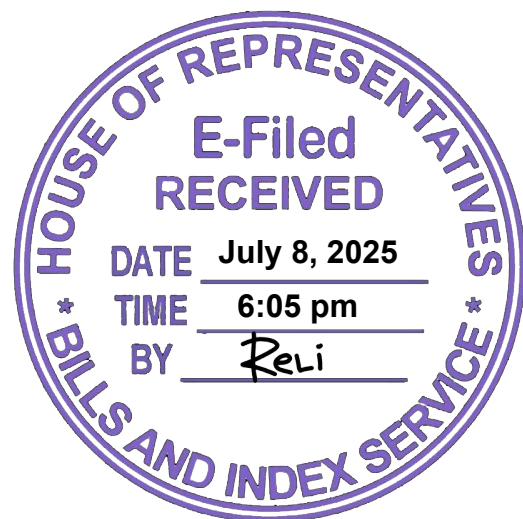




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1614**



INTRODUCED BY REP. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

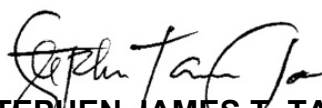
EXPLANATORY NOTE

In alignment with the vision to revitalize tourism in Samar Province, the Provincial Government initiated the Spark Samar movement in 2015, with the goal of establishing Samar as a leading tourist destination in the Philippines. Bolstered by the collective efforts of the people of Samar, this initiative has grown into the transformative Spark Samar Development Agenda (SSDA), promoting sustainable tourism and economic prosperity across the region.

Among the promising tourism circuits and sites identified in the First District of Samar, Onoyan Falls located at Brgy. San Rufino, Calbayog City, stands out as a potential catalyst for economic activity and community livelihoods. Nestled amidst verdant forests, Onoyan falls captivates visitors with its majestic cascade of pristine waters flowing into tranquil, turquoise basin, ideal for swimming and relaxation.

The proposed establishment of the Onoyan Falls as an ecotourism site will greatly aid in the development of its potential as a tourist destination in the Province of Samar. More so, the establishment of the Onoyan Falls as an ecotourism site will surely boost the realization of Provincial Government of Samar's visions under the Spark Samar Development Agenda.

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


STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

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HOUSE BILL NO. **1614**

INTRODUCED BY REP. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

AN ACT DECLARING ONOYAN FALLS LOCATED IN BRGY. SAN RUFINO, CITY OF CALBAYOG, PROVINCE OF SAMAR AS AN ECO-TOURISM DESTINATION

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 “Onoyan Falls Ecotourism Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable and equitable for local communities. To this end, the State shall endeavor to provide the proper mechanisms and infrastructures for sustainable tourism development. It shall promote and develop certain areas and sites identified as tourist destinations or attractions or having potential for tourism to drive and propel inclusive growth throughout the country.

SECTION 3. *The Onoyan Falls Ecotourism Site.* The Onoyan Falls located in Barangay San Rufino, in the City of Calbayog, Province of Samar is hereby established as an ecotourism site. Its development shall be incorporated in the Department of Tourism’s (DOT) National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP) successor plan for 2023 – 2028 and be jointly implemented with City of Calbayog and Provincial Tourism Office of the Province of Samar. The construction and maintenance of infrastructure facilities in the area shall be a shared responsibility of the DOT and the local government unit with emphasis on sustainable development and resource management.

SECTION 4. *Appropriations.* - The DOT, DENR, DPWH, and LGU shall include in its Annual Investment Program (AIP) the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Samar Tourism Council, after due consultation with the DOT, DENR, DPWH, LGUs, and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days after its effectivity. Provided, That the law shall take effect after sixty (60) days with or without the IRR.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and issuances, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall be deemed amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,