

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1835



Introduced by Representative Wilton “Tonton” T. Kho

AN ACT
DECLARING THE MATAYUM LAGOON LOCATED IN BARANGAY
MATAYUM, MUNICIPALITY OF CATAINGAN, PROVINCE OF
MASBATE, AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION

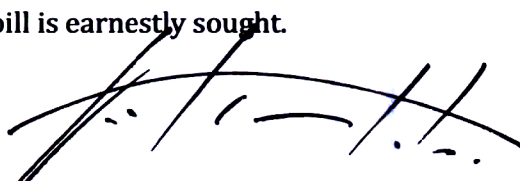
EXPLANATORY NOTE

One of the emerging tourist destinations in the Municipality of Cataingan, Province of Masbate, is the Matayum Lagoon located in the serene Barangay of Matayum. This lagoon is known for being picturesque, as it is nestled amidst lush greenery and surrounded by the tranquil landscape of Masbate.

It offers a peaceful blend of natural splendor and peaceful ambiance. The crystal-clear waters of the lagoon, reflecting the azure sky and the verdant surroundings, create a mesmerizing tableau that captivates visitors.

It is believed that this lagoon has an enormous tourism potential, which, if tapped and developed properly, with due regard and care for its natural beauty and sustainability, could be a source of revenue for local businesses, create jobs, and improve basic services of the community.

Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



REP. WILTON “TONTON” T. KHO
Third District, Masbate Province

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

SECTION 1. The Matayum Lagoon, located in Barangay Matayum, Municipality of Cataingan, Province of Masbate, is hereby declared an ecotourism destination. Pursuant thereto, its development shall be prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism destinations.

Sec. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the municipal government of Cataingan shall, in coordination with the provincial government of Masbate, DOT, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate infrastructure and facilities to enhance tourism in the area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the area: *Provided further*, That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the municipal government of Cataingan.

Sec. 3. The DOT shall assist the municipal government of Cataingan in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include the Matayum Lagoon in its national and regional promotion programs.

Sec. 4. The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the municipal government of Cataingan. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally-generated funds.

Sec. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the municipal government of Cataingan shall, in consultation with the DOT and concerned agencies of the government, promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.

Sec. 6. All laws, rules, regulations, 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,