



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



Twentieth Congress

First Regular Session
House Bill No. 2549

Introduced by :

HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVE LAARNI LAVIN ROQUE
Fourth District, Bukidnon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare Sagumata Waterfalls located in Barangay Lourdes, City of Valencia, Province of Bukidnon as a responsible, community-based ecotourism zone with the goals of developing and promoting the areas into a community-based ecological tourist destination, generating investments, creating livelihood opportunities, and protecting the natural resources within the area.

Sagumata Falls is an alluring gem that can be found in the hilly and wooded area in Barangay Lourdes. Said falls features a plunging water cascade that descends and spreads out into a wide pool where jumping and swimming can be enjoyed. The surrounding area of the falls is developed and maintained to provide visitors easier access to this natural water drop and delight in other activities such as picture taking and picnic. The local used to believe that the water flowing through the falls and river had healing and health-giving powers. According to an old tale, the waters cured someone who had illness with his eyes or "mata" in native dialect, hence, "sagumata".

In anticipation of the influx of local and foreign tourists, this bill, when enacted into law, will help secure adequate national support for the local government units (LGUs) to realize its vast potential as an eco-tourism zone that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally

sensitive, economically viable and ethically and socially equitable for the local community.

Furthermore, the enactment of this bill into law will effectively fast-track the construction and improvement of roads and bridges, and other infrastructure projects necessary to make the area accessible and convenient to all, especially the tourists.

This bill was previously filed by this representation in the 19th Congress and was approved by the House of Representatives on Third Reading and was transmitted to the Senate for its concurrence. However, due to lack of material time, it was not passed into law.

Given the above premises, the urgent passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. LAARNI LAVIN ROQUE
4TH DISTRICT, BUKIDNON



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4TH DISTRICT, BUKIDNON

AN ACT
DECLARING SAGUMATA FALLS, LOCATED IN BARANGAY LOURDES,
CITY OF VALENCIA, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON, AN ECOTOURISM
DESTINATION

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

SECTION 1. The Sagumata Falls located in Barangay Lourdes, City of Valencia, Province of Bukidnon, 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 local government of the City of Valencia shall, in coordination with the 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 local government of the City of Valencia.

SEC. 3. The DOT shall assist the local government of the City of Valencia in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include the Sagumata Falls 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 local government of the City of Valencia. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally-generated funds.

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

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.