

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3188



Introduced by REP. EMILIO BERNARDINO L. YULO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare Binadlan Falls, located in Barangay Bi-ao, Municipality of Binalbagan, Province of Negros Occidental, as an ecotourism site.

Also known as Bambi Falls, Binadlan Falls is approximately 13 kilometers from the Barangay Bi-ao proper. Towering at a height of around 150 feet, the falls feature pristine, crystal-clear waters that draw the interest of both local visitors and international trekkers. Its natural beauty makes it one of the most promising eco-sites in the region.

The Local Government of Binalbagan has initiated various development programs aimed at strengthening the tourism industry, which serves as a key economic growth driver in the southern part of Negros Occidental. These efforts are focused on promoting Binadlan Falls as a viable ecotourism destination and positioning it as a notable attraction in the country's tourism landscape.

Declaring Binadlan Falls as an ecotourism site will not only preserve and enhance its natural and aesthetic value but also contribute to the municipality's economic development by generating income and creating employment opportunities for the local community.

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


REP. EMILIO BERNARDINO L. YULO

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE BINADLAN FALLS, LOCATED IN BARANGAY BIAO,
MUNICIPALITY OF BINALBAGAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL,
AN ECOTOURISM SITE

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "Binadlan Falls Ecotourism Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote an ecologically-sustainable and effective tourism industry that will enhance environmental preservation and support socio-economic development.

SEC. 3. *Binadlan Falls as Ecotourism Site.* The Binadlan Falls, located in Barangay Biao, Municipality of Binalbagan, Province of Negros Occidental, is hereby declared an ecotourism site. 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 sites.

SEC. 4. *Tourism Development Plan.* Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the municipal government of Binalbagan 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 municipal government of Binalbagan.

SEC. 5. *Binadlan Falls Ecotourism Council.* There is hereby created the Binadlan Falls Ecotourism Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, which shall be the primary policy- making, planning and coordinating body in the development and administration of the ecotourism site.

The Council shall be composed of the following members:

- (a) Municipal Mayor of the Municipality of Binalbagan, as the Chairperson;
- (b) Municipal Vice Mayor of the Municipality of Binalbagan, as Vice-Chairperson;
- (c) Sangguniang Bayan Secretary as Council Secretary;
- (d) Head of the Binalbagan Municipal Tourism Office;
- (e) Head of the Binalbagan Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office;
- (f) Chairperson of the Sangguniang Bayan Committee on Environment;
- (g) Punong Barangay of Barangay Biao; and
- (h) Three (3) representatives from the local community to be appointed by the Municipal Mayor, upon the recommendation of the Sangguniang Barangay of Biao.

The term of office of the Council members shall be coterminous with that of the incumbent Municipal Mayor of the Municipality of Binalbagan.

SEC. 6. *Role of the DOT.* The DOT shall assist the municipal government of Binalbagan in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include the Binadlan Falls in all its regional and national promotion programs.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the municipal government of Binalbagan.

The DOT through the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), if necessary, may include such allocation in the TIEZA's program.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the municipal government of Binalbagan shall, in consultation with the DOT and concerned agencies of the government, promulgate the rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or the Official Gazette.

Approved,