

TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.
and Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez*

House Bill No. **3331**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill was approved by the House of Representatives during the 19th Congress.

This bill seeks to declare Birhen Falls located in Barangay Dansolihon in Cagayan de Oro City as an eco-tourism site.

Birhen Falls could be one the many possible international tourist havens in Cagayan de Oro City. It has a wide variety of flora and fauna wherein mountaineers and tourists can enjoy several common eco-tourism related activities such as trekking, nature viewing, bird watching, swimming, nature photography and camping.

Declaring the Birhen Falls an ecotourism site will result in the development and improvement of the tourist site. It will also help the development of the local community.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested.


MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

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AN ACT

DECLARING BIRHEN FALLS, LOCATED IN BARANGAY DANSOLIHON, CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, AN ECOTOURISM SITE

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

SECTION 1. The Birhen Falls located in Barangay Dansolihon, Cagayan de Oro City, Province of Misamis Oriental, 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. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the local government of Cagayan de Oro City 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 Cagayan de Oro City.

SEC. 3. The DOT shall assist the local government of Cagayan de Oro City in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include the Birhen 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 Cagayan de Oro City. 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 Cagayan de Oro City 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, executive orders, proclamations, 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,