

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

House Bill No. **3339**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

This bill seeks to declare the Huluga Caves 1 & 2 in Barangay Indahag, Cagayan de Oro City as ecotourism sites.

Huluga Caves 1 & 2 are two of the most visited tourist destinations in Cagayan de Oro City. The two caves are located about 7 kilometers south of the city proper. The site where the Huluga Caves 1 & 2 is a prehistoric site in the Philippines and among the numerous artifacts uncovered at Huluga were human skeletal remains, fragments of which were eventually sent to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography of the University of California at San Diego near La Jolla, California where amino acid racemization dating technique dated it as belonging to 350 AD.

Declaring the Huluga Caves 1 & 2 as ecotourism sites 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.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ


MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

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AN ACT

DECLARING HULUGA CAVES 1 & 2, LOCATED IN BARANGAY INDAHAG, CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, AS ECOTOURISM SITES

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

SECTION 1. The Huluga Caves 1 & 2 located in Barangay Indahag, Cagayan de Oro City, Province of Misamis Oriental, are hereby declared as ecotourism sites. Pursuant thereto, their 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 hundred twenty (120) days 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 Huluga Caves 1 & 2 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. 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. 7. 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. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,