

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

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House Bill No. **3343**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill was approved by the House of Representatives during the 19<sup>th</sup> Congress.

This bill seeks to declare the Macahambus Cave in Barangay Bayanga, Cagayan de Oro City as an ecotourism site.

Macahambus Cave is one of the most visited tourist destinations in Cagayan de Oro City. It is a scenic cave which is located in the tropical Macahambus Forest nature reserve. The cave houses a colony of bats and has a path and walkable scenic trails. One end of the cave leads to a veranda overlooking the Cagayan de Oro River. The place was the site of the Battle of Makahambus Hill, the first of the few battles won by the Filipinos during the Philippine–American War

Declaring the Macahambus Cave 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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House Bill No. **3343**

**AN ACT**

**DECLARING MACAHAMBUS CAVE, LOCATED IN BARANGAY BAYANGA, 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 Macahambus Cave located in Barangay Bayanga, 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 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 the Macahambus Cave 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,