



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Constitution Hills, Batasan Complex, Quezon City



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3567**

Introduced by Representatives **ALFEL M. BASCUG** and **EDDIEBONG G. PLAZA**

AN ACT
DECLARING JORDAN WATERFALLS IN THE CITY OF
BAYUGAN, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR AS AN ECOTOURISM
SITE

Explanatory Note

This bill seeks to declare Jordan Waterfalls in Barangay Gethsemane, City of Bayugan, Province of Agusan del Sur as an ecotourism site.

Jordan Waterfalls located in Barangay Gethsemane, Bayugan City is a treasured tourist spot in the remote area of the city. This hidden beauty is a home to various attractions counting its beautiful mountain scenery, wide variety of flora and fauna and a deep blue water in which tourists can indulge in numerous popular ecotourism related activities such as swimming, hiking, and forest adventures.

This hidden gem has been considered as a tourist attraction to locals but has never been publicly exposed to other tourists in the Philippines and the world. With the lack of needed development and promotion, the tourism potential of the place has been curtailed. Thus, for this gem to be developed and become a fully grown tourism destination, it should be declared as an ecotourism site.

The development of Jordan Waterfalls into an ecotourism site will not just enhance its aesthetic value but will also boost local government income and create employment opportunities for the people of Agusan del Sur.

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



ALFEL M. BASCUG
1ST District, Agusan del Sur



EDDIEBONG G. PLAZA
2nd District, Agusan del Sur



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

SEC. 1. The Jordan Waterfalls located in Barangay Gethsemane, Bayugan City, province of Agusan del Sur 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 Bayugan 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 Bayugan City.

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

SEC. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, local government of Bayugan 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, 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,