



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



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3570**

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

AN ACT
DECLARING THE PINANDAGATAN FALLS LOCATED IN BARANGAY
NEW TUBIGON, MUNICIPALITY OF SIBAGAT, PROVINCE
OF AGUSAN DEL SUR, AN ECOTOURISM SITE

Explanatory Note

This bill seeks to declare Pinandagatan Falls as an ecotourism site in Barangay New Tubigon, Municipality of Sibagat, Province of Agusan del Sur.

Pinandagatan Falls is a newly discovered multi-tiered waterfall, situated in the remote barangay of New Tubigon, Sibagat, Agusan del Sur. Being immersed deep in the forest of Agusan del Sur, this is considered an amazing, untouched, hidden paradise. With its expanse of different majestic tiers, the Caraga Backpackers Group recorded the site as possibly the longest running waterfall and one of the best waterfalls in the Caraga Region. The place is also the home of various attractions, including a beautiful mountain and a wide variety of flora and fauna, where tourists can enjoy a number of popular ecotourism-related activities such as trekking, swimming, bird watching, picnics, camping, nature viewing, and nature photography.

This hidden tourist gem has been a local tourist attraction but has never been publicly exposed to other tourists in the Philippines or the world. Due to a

lack of needed development and promotion, the tourism potential of the place has been curtailed.

Thus, in order for this gem to be developed and become a fully grown tourist destination, it should be declared as an ecotourism site. The development of Pinandagatan Falls into an ecotourism site will not just enhance its aesthetic value but also increase local government revenue and create employment opportunities for the people of Agusan del Sur.

Notably, this measure has been previously filed in the 19th Congress. The House of Representatives approved it on 3rd Reading and the bill had been duly transmitted to the Senate.

The immediate passage of this bill is hereby 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 Pinandagatan Falls located in Barangay New Tubigon, Municipality of Sibagat, 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 municipal government of Sibagat 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 Sibagat.

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

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