

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

House Bill No. 3713



Introduced by Representative Timothy Joseph Cayton

"AN ACT DECLARING NARURON FALLS LOCATED IN BARANGAY OYAO, MUNICIPALITY OF DUPAX DEL NORTE, PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA AS AN ECO-TOURISM SITE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Naruron Falls offers an ideal venue for eco-tourism activities such as trekking, mountaineering, and cultural affairs. Its development as an eco-tourism destination will not only showcase the rich natural beauty, biodiversity and scenic landscapes of the area but will also boost local economic activity through support in small and local businesses.

This Act mandates the creation of the Naruron Falls Eco-Tourism Management Board composed of local government officials, community representatives, and relevant agencies. These will ensure that the site is developed, managed, and promoted in accordance with sustainable tourism standards, while safeguarding the welfare of the local community and the integrity of the environment. When officially recognized as eco-tourism site, Naruron Falls will have environmental preservation, cultural appreciation, and inclusive economic growth.

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


HON. TIMOTHY JOSEPH CAYTON
Representative
Lone District, Nueva Vizcaya

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* — This Act shall be known and cited as the “***Naruron Falls Eco-Tourism Site Act.***”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is the declared policy of the State to promote responsible tourism and ensure the sustainable development of the country's natural resources. Pursuant to this policy, the State shall recognize and develop eco-tourism sites that showcase the natural beauty and ecological value of rural areas while providing economic opportunities for local communities.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* — It seeks to provide numerous economic benefits to the surrounding community members. Its operation aims to increase income opportunities throughout the year thereby increasing the family income.

It is likewise viewed to be a means to encourage more tourists to experience mountaineering, trekking, and other similar activities while appreciating the beauty of the local available fresh produce.

It aims to provide not only economic benefits but also social and environmental benefits including its resultant long-term effects, some of which are enumerated below:

1. Bring different people together by providing opportunities for cultural exchange;

2. Support local crafts produced by local residents;
3. Create a vehicle for educational research and studies; and
4. Promote physical outdoor activities.

SEC. 4. *Declaration as an Eco-Tourism Site.*– Naruron Falls located in Barangay Oyao, Municipality of Dupax del Norte, Province of Nueva Vizcaya is hereby declared an eco-tourism site. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other concerned agencies, subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations.

SEC. 5. *Creation of the Naruron Falls Eco-Tourism Management Board.* – There is hereby created a Naruron Falls Eco-Tourism Management Board which shall be responsible for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the development and management of Naruron Falls as an eco-tourism site.

The Board shall be composed of the following:

Municipal Mayor of Dupax del Norte – Chairperson

Municipal Vice Mayor – Vice Chairperson

Municipal Tourism Officer – Member

Chairperson of the Sangguniang Bayan Committee on Tourism – Member

Chairperson of the Sangguniang Bayan Committee on Environment –Member

Municipal Planning and Development Officer – Member

Barangay Captain of Barangay Oyao – Member

Three (3) local community stakeholders, to be appointed by the Mayor upon recommendation of the Sangguniang Barangay of Oyao – Members

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of concerned government agencies in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Guidelines.* – The DENR, in coordination with DOT shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the performance metrics and effective implementation of this Act within **sixty (60) days** from its effectivity.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* –If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,