

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

House Bill No. 3714



Introduced by Representative Timothy Joseph Cayton

“AN ACT DECLARING THE SEA OF CLOUDS LOCATED IN BARANGAY BINUANGAN, MUNICIPALITY OF DUPAX DEL NORTE, PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA AS AN ECO-TOURISM SITE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

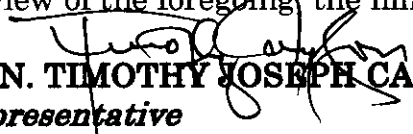
Barangay Binuangan in the Municipality of Dupax del Norte, Province of Nueva Vizcaya is home to the Sea of Clouds, a natural spectacle where early morning mists surround mountains, creating a panoramic view that leaves both local and foreign visitors in awe. Its unspoiled natural resources and cool climate make it a promising eco-tourism destination.

However, without a development and management plan, the site remains underdeveloped and unprotected. This Act seeks to declare the Sea of Clouds in Barangay Binuangan as an eco-tourism destination, thereby ensuring:

- The protection and sustainable management of its natural resources;
- The establishment of essential tourism facilities;
- The promotion of community-based tourism enterprises in order to provide livelihood opportunities for local residents; and
- The preservation of the area's cultural and ecological heritage.

This Act will also create an opportunities for inclusive and sustainable local economic growth, in line with national and global goals for responsible and sustainable tourism.

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 "***Sea of Clouds 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.

SEC. 4. *Declaration as an Eco-Tourism Site.* — The Sea of Clouds located in Barangay Binuangan, Municipality of Dupax del Norte, Province of Nueva Vizcaya is hereby declared an eco-tourism destination. 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 Sea of Clouds Eco-Tourism Management Board.* — There is hereby created a Sea of Clouds Eco-Tourism Management Board which shall

be responsible for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the development and management of Sea of Clouds.

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 Binuangan – Member

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