

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 4429

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Ruins of Cotta "La Fuerza De Guintiguian" located in Barangay Cagboaya in the Municipality of San Agustin, Province of Romblon, is a historic watch tower buttress constructed from ground corals and eggs which was constructed atop the Payong-Payong Hill in 1873. It was built through the initiative of Fr. Agustin de San Pedro to defend the community against the raids of Moro pirates during the Spanish period.

Although severely damaged by earthquakes, a substantial portion of the Ruins of Cotta "La Fuerza De Guintiguian" remains standing, serving as a reminder of a very significant chapter in the history of San Agustin. The structure stands as a monument which reminds the people of San Agustin of their ancestors' engineering ingenuity and resilience, and most importantly, their ancestors' heroic struggles in defending their community.

Given its historical significance, the Ruins of Cotta "La Fuerza De Guintiguian" deserves due recognition and preservation as a historical and cultural landmark.

Declaring the Ruins of Cotta "La Fuerza De Guintiguian" as a tourism site will definitely help boost local tourism, enhance cultural awareness, and generate employment opportunities for the residents of San Agustin.

Therefore, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Eleandro", written in a cursive style.

ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE RUINS OF COTTA “LA FUERZA DE GUINTIGUIAN,” LOCATED IN
BARANGAY CAGBOAYA, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN AGUSTIN, PROVINCE OF
ROMBLON, A TOURISM SITE

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

SECTION 1. The Ruins of Cotta “La Fuerza De Guintiguian,” located in Barangay Cagboaya in the Municipality of San Agustin, Province of Romblon, is hereby declared a tourism 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 tourism sites.

SEC. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the Municipal Government of San Agustin shall, in coordination with the DOT 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 historical significance of the area: *Provided further*, That the implementation of the

tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the Municipal Government of San Agustin.

SEC. 3. The DOT shall assist the Municipal Government of San Agustin in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include the Ruins of Cotta “La Fuerza De Guintiguian” 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 San Agustin.

The DOT through the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), if necessary, may include such allocation in the TIEZA’s program.

SEC. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Municipal Government of San Agustin 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, executive orders, 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,