



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4482



INTRODUCED BY REP. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill proposes to declare Deit Cave located in Brgy. Deit, Municipality of Matuginao as a nature-based tourism destination.

The Municipality of Matuginao is home to several natural wonders that reflect the rich ecological and cultural heritage of the Province of Samar. One of these is the Deit Cave which possesses unique geological features, rich biodiversity, and significant potential for sustainable tourism.

By declaring Deit Cave a nature-based tourism destination, the State seeks to ensure the preservation of its ecological integrity while promoting it as a sustainable tourism site. This initiative will not only showcase the Municipality of Matuginao's natural wonders but will also create livelihood opportunities, strengthen community involvement, and support the province's broader eco-tourism strategy.

Promoting this site as a nature-based tourism destination will be a driver of inclusive growth for the people of Matuginao and the entire Province of Samar.

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


REP. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

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**AN ACT DECLARING DEIT CAVE IN BARANGAY DEIT, MUNICIPALITY OF
MATUGINAO, A NATURE-BASED TOURISM DESTINATION**

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

SECTION 1. *Short title.* - This Act shall be known as the “*Deit Cave Nature-
based Tourism Destination Act.*”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the
State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible,
participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable and equitable for local
communities. To this end, the State shall endeavor to provide the proper mechanisms
and infrastructures for sustainable tourism development. It shall promote and develop
certain areas and sites identified as tourist destinations or attractions or having
potential for tourism to drive and propel inclusive growth throughout the country.

SECTION 3. *Deit Cave as Nature-based Tourism Destination.* – Deit Cave
in Barangay Deit, Municipality of Matuginao is hereby declared as a nature-based
tourism destination. This site shall be developed and promoted for its ecological
significance, cultural value, and recreational potential, with tourism activities designed
to highlight its natural beauty while ensuring environmental protection and
sustainability. Their development shall be incorporated in the Department of Tourism’s
(DOT) National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP) successor plan for 2023–2028
and shall be jointly implemented with the Municipal Government of Matuginao and the
Provincial Tourism Office of Samar. The construction and maintenance of
infrastructure facilities in the area shall be a shared responsibility of the DOT and the
concerned local government units, with emphasis on sustainable development and
resource management.

SECTION 4. *Appropriations.* - The DOT, DENR, DPWH, and LGU shall
include in its Annual Investment Program (AIP) the implementation of this Act, the
funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Samar Tourism Council, after due consultation with the DOT, DENR, DPWH, LGUs, and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days after its effectivity. Provided, That the law shall take effect after sixty (60) days with or without the IRR.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and issuances, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall be deemed amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,