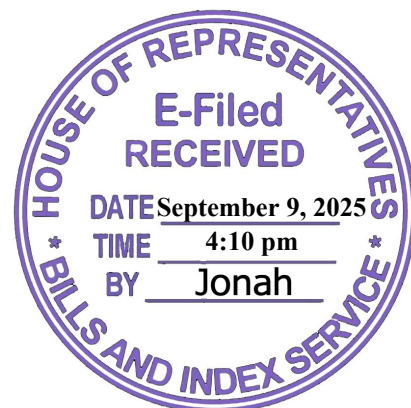




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4483



INTRODUCED BY REP. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Province of Samar is blessed with abundant natural beauty. This Bill proposes to declare Guinoguan Cave and River in Barangay Longsob, Calbayog City, Samar, as a nature-based tourism destination.

Guinoguan Cave and River showcase stunning natural landscapes, unique geological features, and abundant biodiversity. Declaring Guinoguan Cave and River as a nature-based tourism destination aims to harness its potential for sustainable tourism development. Such a declaration will facilitate the allocation of necessary resources for its proper development, conservation, and management, ensuring that its natural integrity is preserved for future generations.

Furthermore, by designating these sites as a nature-based tourism destination, the local government seeks to promote sustainable tourism that showcases their unique ecological importance and cultural heritage, while also providing economic opportunities for the local communities. Through the development of tourism infrastructure, the creation of employment opportunities, and the promotion of local culture and products, this Act will contribute to poverty alleviation and economic growth in the region.

Promoting these sites as a nature-based tourism destination will bring greater visibility to Samar and allow the province to showcase its natural beauty.

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


REP. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

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**AN ACT DECLARING GUINOGOAN CAVE AND RIVER IN BARANGAY
LONGSOB, CALBAYOG CITY, 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 “*Guinogoan Cave and River 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. *Guinogan Cave and River as Nature-based Tourism Destination.* - Guinogoan Cave and River in Barangay Longsob, Calbayog City, are hereby declared as nature-based tourism destinations. These sites shall be developed and promoted for their ecological significance, cultural value, and recreational potential, with tourism activities designed to highlight their 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 City Government of Calbayog 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,