

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 4994

Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

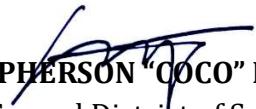
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Municipality of Saint Bernard in Southern Leyte is home to the Guinsaugon Eco-Adventure Park, a site of natural beauty, ecological significance, and historical importance. The Park stands as a symbol of resilience and hope for the people of Guinsaugon, following the tragic landslide of 2006. Over the years, the local government and community have worked tirelessly to rehabilitate and develop the area, transforming it into a destination for eco-tourism, adventure, and environmental education.

Despite its potential, the Guinsaugon Eco-Adventure Park remains under-promoted at the national level. Its inclusion in the Department of Tourism's national, regional, and local promotion programs will not only boost local tourism and economic activity but also support ongoing efforts in environmental preservation and disaster risk awareness.

A version of this measure was first filed in the 15th Congress and has been re-filed in subsequent Congresses, reflecting the sustained commitment of the people's representatives to the development of Southern Leyte. During the 19th Congress, the bill was approved on third reading in the House of Representatives but remained pending in the Senate Committee on Tourism. This re-filing is made in solidarity with the former lone district representatives who have championed the progress of the towns now comprising the Second District of Southern Leyte.

In view of the foregoing, and in the spirit of SERBISYONG TINUORAY (genuine public service), the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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AN ACT

DECLARING THE GUINSAUGON ECO-ADVENTURE PARK LOCATED IN BARANGAY GUINSAUGON, MUNICIPALITY OF SAINT BERNARD, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, A TOURISM DESTINATION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “Guinsaugon Eco-Adventure Park Tourism Act.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote, develop, and preserve tourism destinations that showcase the natural, historical, and cultural heritage of the country, consistent with the principles of sustainable development and ecological preservation.

SECTION 3. Declaration as a Tourism Destination. — The Guinsaugon Eco-Adventure Park located in Barangay Guinsaugon, Municipality of Saint Bernard, Province of Southern Leyte, is hereby declared a tourism destination. Its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with the local government and other relevant agencies, subject to the preservation and protection of its ecological and historical features.

SECTION 4. Tourism Development Plan. — Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Tourism, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the local government of Saint Bernard, shall prepare a tourism

development plan for the Guinsaugon Eco-Adventure Park. The plan shall include the construction and improvement of appropriate facilities and infrastructure, with due consideration to environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction.

SECTION 5. Promotion. — The Department of Tourism shall include the Guinsaugon Eco-Adventure Park in its national, regional, and local promotion programs, and shall provide technical assistance for its development and marketing as a key tourism destination.

SECTION 6. Appropriations. — The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the annual appropriations of the Department of Tourism and other concerned agencies and may be augmented by funds from the local government of Saint Bernard and other sources as may be allowed by law.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Tourism, in consultation with the concerned agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. — All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, proclamations, and other issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,