

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



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6532

INTRODUCED BY REP. CHING B. BERNOS AND REP. JB BERNOS

AN ACT
DECLARING THE KAPARKAN FALLS IN BARANGAY CAGANAYAN,
MUNICIPALITY OF TINEG, PROVINCE OF ABRA AN ECOTOURISM SITE,
ESTABLISHING THE KAPARKAN FALLS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Province of Abra is home to natural wonders. Among these is the Kaparkan Falls found in Barangay Caganayan, Municipality of Tineg. The multi-tiered waterfall made of limestone terraces creates countless natural pools, especially during the rainy season, and is currently gaining attention from local and international tourists and has been featured on various television programs and social media platforms.

While it is undeniably beneficial for local income generation, the increasing attention from tourists also poses significant challenges to the ecological integrity of the waterfalls. Without a firm and clear legislative mandate, the site remains vulnerable to unregulated development and neglect. The potential of Kaparkan Falls as an ecotourism site puts forward economic opportunities and long-term conservation of the falls and its surrounding ecosystem.

To this end, the preservation of the Kaparkan Falls will empower the local community and establish a long-term source of livelihood for the people of Tineg, Abra.

This bill, also filed during the 19th Congress, draws from a similar version filed from 18th and 17th Congress all of which was approved on Third Reading.

In light of the aforementioned explanation, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. CHING B. BERNOS
Representative, Solid North Partylist



HON. JB BERNOS
Representative, Lone District, Abra

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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 “Kaparkan Falls Ecotourism Act”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. Section 16, Article II of the Constitution declares that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

Towards this end, it shall be the policy of the State to promote an ecologically sustainable and culturally-sensitive tourism industry as a tool for socio-economic development in the country, where its participants receive equitably benefits from the development of the sector.

SEC. 3. Kaparkan Falls Ecotourism Site. Kaparkan Falls in Barangay Caganayan, Municipality of Tineg, Province of Abra is hereby declared an ecotourism site. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism sites.

SEC. 4. Technical Description of the Kaparkan Falls. The technical description of the area encompassing the Kaparkan Falls and which is being declared an ecotourism site is as follows:

Parcel I pertains to the area beginning at a point markes "1" on the Land Classification Map, with *Latitude 17°43'20.045"*, *Longitude 120°49'23.406"* situated in Barangay Caganayan, Municipality of Tineg, Province of Abra:

thence N 66°36'3" W 197.74 meters to corner 2;
thence N 42°0'47"" W 757.30 meters to corner 3;
thence S 85°16'40" W 779.17 meters to corner 4;
thence N 12°10'7" W 286.49 meters to corner 5;
thence N 77°23'41" W 643.61 meters to corner 6;
thence S 67°44'4" W 718.40 meters to corner 7;
thence N 24°40'5" E 422.70 meters to corner 8;
thence N 13°15'39" W 309.23 meters to corner 9;
thence N 13°15'39" W 796.43 meters to corner 10;
thence N 66°47'45" W 487.84 meters to corner 11;
thence S 40°6'0" W 300.02 meters to corner 12;
thence N 67°42'56" W 377.03 meters to corner 13;
thence N 28°49'58" W 1372.40 meters to corner 14;
thence N 55°40'44" W 1405.10 meters to corner 15;
thence N 16°5'33" W 802.84 meters to corner 16;
thence N 37°22'38" E 1372.04 meters to corner 17;
thence N 47°56'7" W 575.48 meters to corner 18;
thence N 47°56'6" W 2987.39 meters to corner 19;
thence N 43°56'28" W 3073.46 meters to corner 20;
thence N 40°47'23" E 181.17 meters to corner 21;
thence N 41°1'7" W 281.26 meters to corner 22;
thence N 33°46'57" E 1109.68 meters to corner 23;

thence N 88°56'9" E 661.69 meters to corner 24;
 thence N 44°36'46" E 667.95 meters to corner 25;
 thence S 59°49'30" E 351.17 meters to corner 26;
 thence N 24°39'42" E 435.90 meters to corner 27;
 thence S 75°5'23" E 578.87 meters to corner 28;
 thence N 49°41'30" E 441.90 meters to corner 29;
 thence S 85°18'52" E 916.37 meters to corner 30;
 thence S 63°41'21" E 232.59 meters to corner 31;
 thence S 47°44'2" E 1515.21 meters to corner 32;
 thence S 38°22'14" W 254.05 meters to corner 33;
 thence S 77°4'26" W 69.41 meters to corner 34;
 thence S 42°13'55" W 230.04 meters to corner 35;
 thence S 15°38'32" W 193.19 meters to corner 36;
 thence S 47°13'19" W 233.74 meters to corner 37;
 thence S 33°57'36" W 262.86 meters to corner 38;
 thence S 59°52'5" E 1447.06 meters to corner 39;
 thence N 43°13'58" E 747.38 meters to corner 40;
 thence N 52°34'12" E 338.69 meters to corner 41;
 thence S 43°56'23" E 632.71 meters to corner 42;
 thence N 65°28'46" E 612.02 meters to corner 43;
 thence S 79°33'27" E 719.87 meters to corner 44;
 thence S 32°45'9" E 288.29 meters to corner 45;
 thence S 23°49'12" W 360.89 meters to corner 46;
 thence S 31°32'18" E 403.22 meters to corner 47;

thence S 48°34'20" E	1138.30	meters to corner 48;
thence S 72°34'53" E	240.80	meters to corner 49;
thence S 39°6'26" E	283.88	meters to corner 50;
thence S 37°6'50" W	529.58	meters to corner 51;
thence S 0°22'3" E	652.55	meters to corner 52;
thence S 35°43'5" E	994.36	meters to corner 53;
thence S 11°16'36" E	409.83	meters to corner 54;
thence S 12°0'46" W	966.56	meters to corner 55;
thence S 16°32'51" E	688.54	meters to corner 56;
thence S 19°28'39" W	619.13	meters to corner 57;
thence N 82°45'28" W	628.25	meters to corner 58;
thence N 39°34'10" W	358.96	meters to corner 59;
thence N 74°22'15" W	288.19	meters to corner 60;
thence N 80°8'28" W	28.50	meters to corner 61;
thence S 19°23'4" W	47.33	meters to corner 62;
thence S 2°14'12" W	52.25	meters to corner 63;
thence S 63°20'54" E	203.07	meters to corner 64;
thence S 13°6'8" E	164.61	meters to corner 65;
thence S 50°57'43" W	622.29	meters to corner 66;
thence S 33°13'57" E	783.24	meters to corner 67;
thence S 3°21'33" W	801.22	meters to corner 68;
thence S 20°20'36" E	781.26	meters to corner 69;
thence S 6°56'41" E	689.00	meters to corner 70;
thence S 32°45'50" W	425.67	meters to corner 1,

containing an area of 6,827 hectares, more or less.

PARCEL II pertains to the area beginning at a point markes "1" on the Land Classification Map, with *Latitude 17°46'34.257"*, *Longitude 120°46'52.307"* situated in Barangay Caganayan, Municipality of Tineg, Province of Abra:

thence N 47°52'37" W	109.32	meters to corner 2;
thence N 1°53'12" W	180.48	meters to corner 3;
thence N 29°54'10" W	210.51	meters to corner 4;
thence N 8°20'28" W	184.31	meters to corner 5;
thence S 88°7'44" E	124.15	meters to corner 6;
thence N 53°31'33" E	96.36	meters to corner 7;
thence S 19°16'52" E	134.16	meters to corner 8;
thence S 11°49'12" E	171.94	meters to corner 9;
thence N 39°3'16" E	251.05	meters to corner 10;
thence S 2°4'4" W	383.32	meters to corner 11;
thence S 23°31'52" W	156.74	meters to corner 12;
thence S 72°39'18" W	151.01	meters to corner 1.

containing an area of seventeen (17) hectares, more or less.

Sec. 5. Kaparkan Falls Development Council. A multi-sectoral council shall be created to be known as the "Kaparkan Falls Development Council", herein referred to as the Council. It shall be composed of the following members:

- a. Representative from the Office of the Mayor of the Municipality of Tineg, as Chairperson;
- b. Head of the Tineg Municipal Tourism Office;
- c. Head of the Tineg Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office;
- d. A representative from the DOT;
- e. A representative from the DENR;

- f. Two (2) representatives from the indigenous peoples sector in the Municipality of Tineg; and
- g. Two (2) representatives from the private sector in the Province of Abra.

The term of office of the members of the Council shall be coterminous with the incumbent Municipal Mayor of Tineg.

The Provincial Government of Abra shall provide a secretariat for the Council including the funding necessary to cover expenses for the performance of its official functions and activities.

SEC. 6. *Functions and Responsibilities of the Council.* The Council shall have the following functions:

- a. Formulation and implementation of the Kaparkan Falls Development Plan, in consultation with the local residents, businesses and other stakeholders;
- b. Assessment and evaluation of the potential impact of the development to the environmental safety and well-being of the site, communities and enterprises;
- c. Provision of technical and financial assistance to the communities within the site;
- d. Formulation of rules and regulations in relation to the maintenance and security of the ecotourism site; and,
- e. Performance of other functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Annual Reports.* Within sixty (60) days after each fiscal year, the DOT and the DENR shall submit a report to both Houses of Congress with respect to the operation of the ecotourism site. The report shall provide information on the total amount expended during the fiscal year to carry out and achieve the purpose of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* The Secretaries of the DOT and the DENR shall include in their respective Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and from internally generated funds of the DOT.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, DENR, and the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority, in coordination with the Municipality of Tineg, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

The DOT and the DENR shall be jointly tasked to coordinate and monitor the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, ordinances, executive orders, issuances or parts thereof, inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby deemed amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,