

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6605



Introduced by: Hon. Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan

AN ACT
DECLARING MONA CAVE IN BARANGAY DANLAGAN BATIS IN THE MUNICIPALITY
OF GUINAYANGAN, PROVINCE OF QUEZON AS ECO-TOURISM ZONE AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 16 of the Constitution provides 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."*

The Mona Cave is located in Sitio Siete, Barangay Danlagan Batis, Guinayangan, Quezon. Danlagan Batis is located on the north eastern part of Guinayangan and is bounded by Danlagan Reserva, Bukal Maligaya, and San Antonio. It is more or less 135 kilometers from Lucena City; 255 kilometers from Manila via South Luzon Expressway; and 15 kilometers from Guinayangan town proper. The barangay is traversed by partly cemented farm to market road. From the roadside, the cave can be accessed by a 15-minute trek through footpaths within farms and coconut plantations.

This bill seeks to declare the Mona Cave as eco-tourism site, which is hoped to help facilitate the growth and promotion of tourism in Quezon and the CALABARZON. It will also ensure that the rich biological diversity in the area is protected and preserved. Also, its growth as an eco-tourism destination will significantly support the local economy by providing employment and trade opportunities.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan
4th District, Quezon

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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 "Mona Cave Eco-Tourism Zone Act".

SEC. 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 equitably beneficial to local communities.

SEC. 3. *Mona Cave Eco-Tourism Zone.* - The Mona Cave located in Barangay Danlagan Batis in the Municipality of Guinayangan, Province of Quezon is hereby declared an eco-tourism zone. Its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.

The DOT shall prepare the development plan for the Mona Cave and shall incorporate the same in the overall National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP), pursuant to Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as "The Tourism Act of 2009". The Plan shall be implemented jointly with the Municipality of Guinayangan, the local Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), and the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA).

The DOT, in coordination with the Municipality of Guinayangan, the PAMB, the TIEZA, and other concerned agencies of government, shall identify well defined areas within the Mona Cave Eco-Tourism Zone and ensure the integrated development of these areas for the optimum utilization of natural assets and attractions, as well as the preservation of their historic significance.

SEC. 4. *Appropriations.* - The Secretary of Tourism shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Tourism, in consultation with the Municipality of Guinayangan, the PAMB and the TIEZA, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,