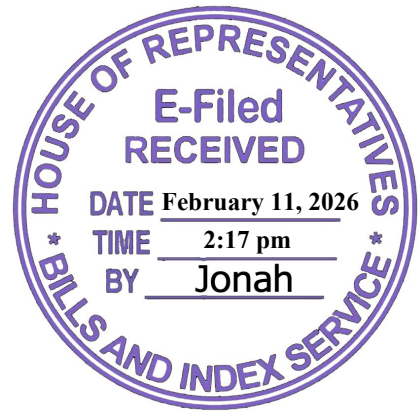


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7744



Introduced by Rep. Lolita Karen T. Javier

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Kalabato Hot Springs and Eco-park which is geographically located in the Municipality of La Paz Leyte as a tourism spot and to promote the area as a feasible tourist destination.

The Kalabato Hot Springs and Eco-park is a known tourist destination in Barangay Bocawon, La Paz, is within the area covered by the Mahagnao Volcano National Park, which is a protected area encompassing 635 hectares land area from Burauen and MacArthur and is about eight kilometers away from the town center.

The local government's efforts to develop and promote the Kalabato Hot Springs and Eco-park is the result of increased inflow of tourists. Kalabato is a rock-like formation that got its unique name from the hot water that springs out at its top with a shape similar to a "kalabasa" or squash and "bato" or stone. These geologic formations line at the bank of the Gimiranat River by the foot of Mt. Malacagang in Bocawon.

With the enactment of this Bill, the Hot Spring has the potential to become a major tourist destination and this will boost the great beauty as well as maintain the protection of the environment and natural resources within the area.

Consequently, the objective of this bill is to declare the Kalabato Hot Springs and Eco-park as a national tourist destination, promoting the sustainable development of the area. This will attract more tourists to explore and enjoy the tourist spot in the Municipality of La Paz, Leyte, and will create more job opportunities and help in the economic recovery of the locality. This will also convince and encourage stakeholders to invest and contribute for the sustainable development of the area.

Pursuant to Republic Act 11262, the amended RA 9593, also known as "The Tourism Act of 2009" which provides for the State to ensure the development of the Philippine tourism that is for the people and by the people, conserve and promote their heritage, national identity and sense of unity and also recognize the sustainable tourism development as integral to the national socioeconomic development efforts to improve the quality of life of the Filipino people

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


REP. LOLITA KAREN T. JAVIER

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO 7744

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AN ACT

DECLARING THE KALABATO HOT SPRINGS AND ECO-PARK AND ITS PREMISES
LOCATED IN BARANGAY BOCAWON, LA PAZ, LEYTE AS A TOURIST SPOT AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The Kalabato Hot Springs and Eco-Park and its premises situated in Barangay Bocawon, La Paz, Leyte is hereby declared as a tourist spot. As such, it shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT), and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourist spots.

SECTION 2. The DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and other concerned agencies of the government, shall, within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, prepare the development plan involving the construction, installation and/or maintenance of such appropriate facilities which shall enhance tourism in the area and submit the said development plan to the Leyte Tourism Council for approval.

SECTION 3. The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the said development plan and incorporate the same in the Department's overall tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year.

SECTION 4. The DOT shall likewise promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act, including the Feasibility Study, shall be charged against the appropriations under the annual General Appropriations Act and/or internally generated funds of the DOT/TIEZA.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspaper of general circulation.

. Approved,