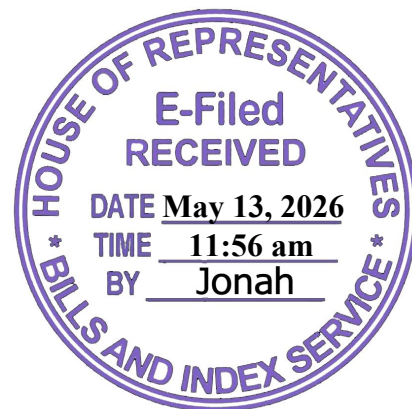




Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City  
**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 9239

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Introduced by:  
HON. KING GEORGE LEANDRO ANTONIO V. COLLANTES

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Province of Batangas is endowed with abundant natural resources and ecologically significant areas that possess immense potential for sustainable tourism development. Among these is the Sabang River located in Barangay Wawa, City of Tanauan, a scenic and environmentally important river system that serves as a source of livelihood, recreation, and ecological balance for the surrounding communities.

The Sabang River is characterized by its natural beauty, rich biodiversity, and tranquil environment, making it an ideal destination for eco-tourism activities such as river trekking, nature appreciation, educational tours, and other environmentally sustainable recreational activities. Its preservation and responsible development can contribute significantly to environmental awareness while generating economic opportunities for local residents.

Recognizing the growing importance of eco-tourism as a driver of inclusive local economic growth, it is imperative for the government to promote and develop environmentally sustainable tourism destinations that

balance conservation with community development. Declaring the Sabang River as an eco-tourism site will encourage the establishment of appropriate infrastructure and tourism facilities while ensuring the protection and preservation of its ecological integrity.

By enacting this measure, tourism in Tanauan will be showcased, thereby ensuring the environmental conservation of our natural heritage, and generating livelihood and employment opportunities for our local communities in Batangas.

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



KING GEORGE LEANDRO ANTONIO V. COLLANTES  
Representative, 3rd District, Batangas



Republic of the Philippines  
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**HOUSE BILL NO. 9239**

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**AN ACT**  
**DECLARING THE SABANG RIVER IN BARANGAY WAWA, CITY OF**  
**TANAUAN, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS AS AN ECOTOURISM SITE**

*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 “Sabang River Eco-tourism Site Act.”

**SEC. 2. *Tourism Site.*** - The Sabang River in Barangay Wawa, City of Tanauan, Province of Batangas is hereby declared as an eco-tourism site. As such, it shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourism sites.

**SEC. 3. *Development Plan.*** - The DOT, coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and other concerned agencies of government shall, within one (1) year from the approval of this Act, prepare a development plan involving construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure as shall enhance tourism in said are, provided, that said development plan

shall ensure the preservation of the natural beauty and recreational significance of the area.

**SEC. 4. *Implementing Agency.*** - The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement said development plan with the Municipal Government of Cuenca and shall incorporate the same in the Department's overall tourism development program for the year following the approval of this Act.

**SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in consultation with relevant local government units, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

**SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or portions thereof, which are 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 a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*