

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9299



Introduced by Representative Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Municipality of Calatrava is richly endowed with unrecognized natural resources which serve as shining gemstones as far as tourism destinations are concerned. It has a wide spectrum of breathtaking sites, ranging from its natural landscape, pristine beaches, unique ecotourism attractions, rich marine resources, and culturally significant landmarks.

Among these are its coastal wonders, such as the Lapus-Lapus Beach, Tinagong Dagat, Agar-Agar Beach, Ngak-Ngak Beach, Cove Aurelio, Turtle Cove, and the Guindawahan Island, with their pristine waters, tranquil shorelines, unique rock formations, and panoramic views of the open sea which are ideal for leisure and quiet retreats.

Equally noteworthy are Calatrava's inland ecotourism destinations, such as the Cawa-Cawa Falls, with its pure flowing waters and surrounding vegetation; the Balogo Forest Reserve, with its lowland forests, protected watershed, and rich coastal mangroves; the Calatrava Fish Sanctuary, which offers a view of precious marine conservation sites; and the Andagao Cave, a geological gift of nature, formed after thousands of years which offers memories of adventure tourism and environmental appreciation. The Camp Ruadel, Balai Azinan, D'Rose Taberna, and Bulawan Resort are likewise sought after for their hospitality services, warm indigenous trademark of tourism accommodations, and recreational activities.

Hence, the declaration of the Municipality of Calatrava as a tourism destination is envisioned to elevate its visibility in regional and national tourism programs, promote tourism-related investments, develop local infrastructure, provide employment opportunities, strengthen various livelihood activities, and foster both environmental and cultural stewardship through sustainable tourism development.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Eleandro", written in a cursive style.

ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9299

Introduced by Representative Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona

AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF CALATRAVA, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON, AS
A TOURISM DESTINATION

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

SECTION 1. The Municipality of Calatrava, Province of Romblon, is hereby declared a tourism destination. Pursuant thereto, its development shall be prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourism destinations.

SEC. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the Municipal Government of Calatrava shall, in coordination with the DOT, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation, and maintenance of such appropriate infrastructure and facilities to enhance tourism in the area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the area: *Provided, further*, That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the Municipal Government of Calatrava.

SEC. 3. The DOT shall assist the Municipal Government of Calatrava in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include the Municipality of Calatrava in all its regional and national promotion programs.

SEC. 4. The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the Municipal Government of Calatrava. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally generated funds.

SEC. 5. Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Municipal Government of Calatrava shall, in consultation with the DOT and concerned agencies of the government, promulgate the rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 6. If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees, and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,