



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9481

BY REPRESENTATIVES YULO, MADRONA, SUANSING (M.A.), CHAN (J.), SALVAME, ANGARA, ALVAREZ (J.), KHO (E.), TUAN, MIRAFLORES, HORIBATA, YAP (J.G.), AGYAO, ALANO, DALOG, MOMO, SINGSON (R.V.), CALDERON, YNARES, CORVERA, REGENCIA, CASTRO, GONZALES (A.M.), TUPAS, PLEYTO, BANCORO, RODRIGUEZ (E.), BELTRAN, DAZA, DEL MAR, GUINTU, BARBA, CAGAS, CAYTON, COLLANTES, ROMAN, ROQUE, UMALI, SUAN AND IWAY

AN ACT

DECLARING BINADLAN FALLS, LOCATED IN BARANGAY BI-AO, MUNICIPALITY OF BINALBAGAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AS AN ECOTOURISM SITE

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Binadlan Falls
2 Ecotourism Act.”

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote
4 an ecologically-sustainable and effective tourism industry that will enhance environmental
5 preservation and support socio-economic development.

1 **SEC. 3. *Binadlan Falls as Ecotourism Site.*** – The Binadlan Falls, located in Barangay
2 Bi-ao, Municipality of Binalbagan, Province of Negros Occidental, is hereby declared an
3 ecotourism site. Pursuant thereto, its development shall be prioritized and supported by the
4 Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of
5 ecotourism sites.

6 **SEC. 4. *Tourism Development Plan.*** – Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act,
7 the Municipal Government of Binalbagan shall, in coordination with the DOT, Department of
8 Environment and Natural Resources, and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a
9 tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation, and maintenance of such
10 appropriate infrastructure and facilities to enhance tourism in the area: *Provided*, That said
11 development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and
12 resources of the area: *Provided, further*, That the implementation of the tourism development plan
13 shall be included in the budget of the Municipal Government of Binalbagan.

14 **SEC. 5. *Binadlan Falls Ecotourism Council.*** – There is hereby created the Binadlan Falls
15 Ecotourism Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, which shall be the primary
16 policy-making, planning, and coordinating body in the development and administration of the
17 ecotourism site.

18 The Council shall be composed of the following members:

- 19 (a) Municipal Mayor of the Municipality of Binalbagan, as Chairperson;
20 (b) Municipal Vice Mayor of the Municipality of Binalbagan, as Vice-Chairperson;
21 (c) Sangguniang Bayan Secretary as Council Secretary;
22 (d) Head of the Binalbagan Municipal Tourism Office;
23 (e) Head of the Binalbagan Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office;

(f) Chairperson of the Committee on Environment of the Sangguniang Bayan of Binalbagan;

(g) Punong Barangay of Barangay Bi-ao; and

(h) Three (3) representatives from the local community to be appointed by the Municipal Mayor, upon the recommendation of the Sangguniang Barangay of Bi-ao.

The term of office of the Council members shall be coterminous with that of the incumbent Municipal Mayor of the Municipality of Binalbagan.

SEC. 6. *Role of the DOT.* – The DOT shall assist the Municipal Government of Binalbagan in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include Binadlan Falls in its regional and national promotion programs.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* – The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the Municipal Government of Binalbagan. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally generated funds.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Municipal Government of Binalbagan shall, in consultation with the DOT and concerned agencies of the government, promulgate the rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – 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.

1 **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees, and other
2 issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or
3 amended accordingly.

4 **SEC. 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
5 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

 Approved,