



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9486

BY REPRESENTATIVES CAYTON, 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, COLLANTES, ROMAN, ROQUE, UMALI AND SUAN

AN ACT
DECLARING NARURON FALLS, LOCATED IN BARANGAY OYAO,
MUNICIPALITY OF DUPAX DEL NORTE, PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA,
AS AN ECOTOURISM SITE

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

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

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the State to promote responsible
4 tourism and ensure the sustainable development of the country’s natural resources.

5 The State recognizes the development of ecotourism sites as a means to showcase the
6 natural beauty and ecological value of rural areas, while providing economic opportunities for
7 local communities.

8 **SEC. 3. *Naruron Falls Ecotourism Site.*** – The Naruron Falls, located in Barangay
9 Oyao, Municipality of Dupax del Norte, Province of Nueva Vizcaya, is hereby declared an

1 ecotourism site. Pursuant thereto, its development shall be prioritized and supported by the
2 Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development
3 of ecotourism sites.

4 **SEC. 4. Objectives.** – This Act seeks to:

5 (a) Provide economic opportunities to the surrounding communities of Naruron Falls
6 aimed at increasing sources of family income therein;

7 (b) Encourage more visitors to indulge in diverse activities, such as mountain climbing
8 and trekking, among others, while appreciating the natural beauty of and fresh
9 produce in the area;

10 (c) Bring about social and environmental benefits, such as:

11 (1) Opportunities for cultural exchange by bringing different people together;

12 (2) Support to communities by showcasing local products;

13 (3) Capacity development through educational research and studies; and

14 (4) Promotion of outdoor physical activities.

15 **SEC. 5. Ecotourism Development Plan.** – Within six (6) months after the approval of
16 this Act, the Municipal Government of Dupax del Norte shall, in coordination with the DOT,
17 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and concerned agencies of the
18 government, prepare an ecotourism development plan that shall include the construction,
19 installation, and maintenance of such appropriate infrastructure and facilities to enhance
20 tourism in the area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and
21 conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the area: *Provided, further*, That the
22 implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the
23 Municipal Government of Dupax del Norte.

24 **SEC. 6. Naruron Falls Ecotourism Management Board.** – The Naruron Falls
25 Ecotourism Management Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, is hereby created. The

Board shall formulate strategies and guidelines in the operation, maintenance, promotion, and conservation of the ecotourism site. It shall be composed of the following members:

- (a) Municipal Mayor of Dupax Del Norte, as Chairperson;
- (b) Municipal Vice Mayor of Dupax Del Norte, as Vice Chairperson;
- (c) Chairperson of the Sangguniang Bayan Committee on Tourism;
- (d) Chairperson of the Sangguniang Bayan Committee on Environment;
- (e) Municipal Tourism Officer;
- (f) Municipal Planning and Development Officer;
- (g) Barangay Captain of Barangay Oyao; and
- (f) Three (3) local community stakeholders, to be appointed by the Municipal Mayor, upon the recommendation of the Sangguniang Barangay of Oyao.

SEC. 7. *Role of the DOT.* – The DOT shall assist the Municipal Government of Dupax del Norte and the Board in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include Naruron Falls in its national and regional promotion programs.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the Municipal Government of Dupax del Norte. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally generated funds.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Municipal Government of Dupax del Norte shall, in consultation with the Board, DOT, DENR, and concerned agencies of the government, promulgate the rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 10. *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. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders,
2 presidential decrees, and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are
3 hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

4 **SEC. 12. *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,