



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9523

BY REPRESENTATIVES TAN (R.M.), 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 TAN (S.J.)

AN ACT

DECLARING SOHOTON CAVES AND NATURAL BRIDGE, LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BASEY, PROVINCE OF SAMAR, AS AN ECOTOURISM SITE

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The Sohoton Caves and Natural Bridge, located in the
2 Municipality of Basey, Province of Samar, is hereby declared an ecotourism site.
3 Pursuant thereto, its development shall be prioritized and supported by the
4 Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the
5 development of ecotourism sites.

6 **SEC. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the Municipal
7 Government of Basey shall, in coordination with the DOT, Department of Environment
8 and Natural Resources (DENR), and concerned agencies of the government, prepare

9 a tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation, and
10 maintenance of such appropriate infrastructure and facilities to enhance tourism in the
11 area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and
12 conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the area: *Provided, further*, That
13 the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget
14 of the Municipal Government of Basey.

15 **SEC. 3.** The DOT shall assist the Municipal Government of Basey in the
16 implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in
17 tourism capacity building. It shall also include the Sohoton Caves and Natural Bridge
18 in its national and regional promotion programs.

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

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

26 **SEC. 6.** All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees, and other issuances
27 inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or
28 amended accordingly.

29 **SEC. 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
30 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,