



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7430

BY REPRESENTATIVES HOFER, NOGRALES (K.A.), LIMKAICHONG,
ALVAREZ (F.), ROCAMORA, GO (M.), PINEDA, LEE, ANTONIO,
ACOSTA, BRAVO (A.), GARIN (S.), LOPEZ (B.),
SARMIENTO (E.M.), AND SY-ALVARADO, PER COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 675

AN ACT DECLARING THE UNDERGROUND TIPAN CAVE IN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF NAGA, PROVINCE OF
ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY AN ECOTOURISM SITE AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

*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
2 “Underground Tipan Cave Ecotourism Act”.

3 SEC. 2. *The Underground Tipan Cave Ecotourism Site.* – The
4 Underground Tipan Cave in the Municipality of Naga in the Second
5 District of Zamboanga Sibugay is hereby declared an ecotourism
6 site, whose geographical limits shall be subject to study by the local
7 government unit.

8 Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the
9 Secretary of the Department of Tourism (DOT) shall promulgate the

1 necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of
2 this Act.

3 **SEC. 3. *The Underground Tipan Cave Ecotourism Council.* –**

4 There shall be created an ecotourism council, to be known as the
5 Underground Tipan Cave Ecotourism Council, hereinafter referred
6 to as the “Council” and shall be composed of the following:

7 (a) The Mayor of the Municipality of Naga, as Chairperson;

8 (b) One (1) representative from an accredited
9 nongovernmental organization whose advocacy is environmental
10 preservation, as member;

11 (c) One (1) representative from a recognized indigenous
12 people’s organization, as member; and

13 (d) Two (2) representatives from the private sector, as
14 members.

15 The Sangguniang Panlungsod of Naga shall appoint
16 the members of the Council to a term of five (5) years, which
17 appointment may be extended to a second term.

18 The Provincial Government of Zamboanga Sibugay shall
19 provide a Secretariat for the Council including the funding
20 necessary to cover expenses for the performance of its official
21 functions and activities.

22 **SEC. 4. *Functions and Responsibilities of the Council.* – The**
23 **Council shall be responsible for the following:**

24 (a) Formulation of the Underground Tipan Cave
25 Development Plan, in consultation with local residents, businesses,
26 and other stakeholders;

1 (b) Assessment and evaluation of the potential impact of the
2 development to the environmental safety and well-being of the site,
3 communities, and enterprises;

4 (c) Provision of technical and financial assistance to
5 communities within the site;

6 (d) Formulation of rules and regulations in relation to the
7 maintenance and security of the ecotourism site; and

8 (e) Performance of other functions as may be necessary to
9 carry out the objectives of this Act.

10 SEC. 5. *Technical Assistance to the Council.* - The DOT,
11 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and
12 the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall
13 provide technical assistance to the Council in the performance of its
14 functions and responsibilities.

15 SEC. 6. *Implementing Agencies.* - The DOT, in coordination
16 with the DENR, DPWH and other concerned agencies of the
17 government, shall be responsible for the planning, monitoring and
18 implementation of the approved Underground Tipan Cave
19 Development Plan.

20 SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* - The Secretaries of the DOT,
21 DENR and DPWH shall include in their respective Department's
22 program the implementation of the Underground Tipan Cave
23 Development Plan, the funding of which shall be included in the
24 annual General Appropriations Act and from internally generated
25 funds of the DOT.

1 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act
2 shall be held unconstitutional, any other provision not otherwise
3 affected shall remain in full force and effect.

4 **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, rules, regulations,
5 proclamations, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with
6 the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified
7 accordingly.

8 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
9 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper
10 of general circulation.

Approved,

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