



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6447

BY REPRESENTATIVE KHO (E.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 258

**AN ACT DECLARING THE BAT-ONGAN PEAK, CAVE
AND UNDERGROUND RIVER LOCATED IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF MANDAON, PROVINCE OF MASBATE
AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** It is declared the policy of the State to promote a
2 safe and sustainable ecotourism industry consistent with the
3 protection and preservation of the environment.

4 **SEC. 2.** The Bat-ongan Peak, Cave and Underground River
5 located in the Municipality of Mandaon, Province of Masbate are
6 declared an ecotourism zone. As such, their development shall be
7 prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and other
8 concerned agencies, subject to the rules and regulations governing
9 the development of ecotourism zones.

10 **SEC. 3.** Within one (1) year from the approval of this Act, the
11 DOT, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
12 (DENR), and the provincial government of Masbate shall prepare an

1 ecotourism master plan for the Bat-ongan Peak, Cave and
2 Underground River.

3 SEC. 4. The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the
4 Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding
5 of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act
6 and from internally generated funds of the DOT.

7 SEC. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act,
8 the DOT, DENR, and the provincial government of Masbate, in
9 coordination with other concerned agencies of the government, shall
10 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper
11 implementation of this Act.

12 SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
13 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general
14 circulation.

Approved,

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