

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7988

BY REPRESENTATIVES HOFER AND SAVELLANO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 590

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE MALUBAL FALLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ROSELLER T.
LIM, 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 "Malubal Falls Ecotourism
2 Act."

3 **Sec. 2. *Malubal Falls Ecotourism Site.*** - The Malubal Falls in the Municipality of
4 Roseller T. Lim (RT Lim) in the Second District of Zamboanga Sibugay, is hereby declared
5 an ecotourism site.

6 **Sec. 3. *Malubal Falls Ecotourism Council.*** - There shall be created the Malubal Falls
7 Ecotourism Council, hereinafter referred to as the "Council", composed of the following:

8 (a) Mayor of the Municipality of RT Lim, as *ex-officio* Chairperson;

9 (b) Regional Director of the Department of Tourism (DOT), as Co-Chairperson;

10 (c) Representative from the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority

11 (TIEZA);

- 1 (d) Provincial Tourism Officer of the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay;
- 2 (e) Municipal Tourism Officer of the Municipality of RT Lim;
- 3 (f) One (1) representative from an accredited non-governmental organization whose
- 4 advocacy is environmental preservation;
- 5 (g) One (1) representative from a recognized indigenous people's organization; and
- 6 (h) Two (2) representatives from the private sector whose expertise is in the field of
- 7 tourism, as members.

8 The local legislative body of the Municipality of RT Lim shall appoint the members

9 of the Council mentioned in paragraphs (f), (g) and (h) for a term of five (5) years, which

10 appointment may be extended to a second term.

11 The municipal tourism office of RT Lim shall act as the Secretariat of the Council,

12 and shall provide the funding necessary to cover expenses to be incurred in the performance

13 of its official functions and activities

14 *Sec. 4. Functions and Responsibilities of the Council.* - The Council shall exercise the

15 following functions:

- 16 (a) Study and determine the geographical limits of the site;
- 17 (b) Formulate the Malubal Falls Development Plan, in consultation with local
- 18 residents, businesses, and other stakeholders;
- 19 (c) Assess and evaluate the potential impact of the development to the environmental
- 20 safety and well-being of the site, communities, and enterprises;
- 21 (d) Provide technical and financial assistance to communities within the site;
- 22 (e) Formulate rules and regulations in relation to the maintenance and security of the
- 23 ecotourism site;
- 24 (f) Perform other functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this
- 25 Act.

1 Sec. 5. *Technical Assistance to the Council.* - The DOT, TIEZA, Department of
2 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Public Works and
3 Highways (DPWH) shall provide technical assistance to the Council in the performance of its
4 functions and responsibilities.

5 Sec. 6 . *Implementing Agencies.* - The DOT, in coordination with the TIEZA,
6 DENR, DPWH and other concerned agencies of government, shall be responsible for the
7 monitoring and implementation of the approved Malubal Falls Development Plan.

8 Sec. 7, *Implementing Rules and Regulations,* - Within sixty (60) days from the
9 effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Tourism shall, in coordination with the Municipality
10 of RT Lim, TIEZA and other tourism stakeholders, promulgate the necessary rules and
11 regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

12 Sec. 8. *Appropriations.* - The Secretaries of the DOT, DENR and DPWH shall
13 include in their respective Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding
14 of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act, and shall augment such
15 allocation with internally generated funds of the DOT.

16 Sec. 9. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, rules, regulations, proclamations, executive
17 orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or
18 repealed accordingly.

19 Sec. 10. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
20 in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general circulation.

21 Approved,