



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9827

BY REPRESENTATIVE TAN (S.A.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1085

**AN ACT
DECLARING SOHOTON CAVES AND NATURAL BRIDGE LOCATED IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF BASEY, PROVINCE OF SAMAR, 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.** The Sohoton Caves and Natural Bridge located in the Municipality
2 of Basey, Province of Samar, is hereby declared an ecotourism site. As such, its
3 development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules
4 and regulations governing the development of ecotourism sites.

5 **Sec. 2.** The DOT, in coordination with concerned local government units (LGUs)
6 and government agencies, shall prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the
7 construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure
8 that shall enhance ecotourism in the area: *Provided,* That the development plan shall ensure
9 the preservation of the natural beauty and resources in the area.

1 **Sec. 3.** The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the development plan
2 and shall incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the ensuing calendar
3 year.

4 **Sec. 4.** The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the
5 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
6 Appropriations Act, and shall augment such allocation with internally generated funds of the
7 Department.

8 **Sec. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in
9 consultation with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and concerned
10 LGUs and government agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for
11 the proper implementation of this Act.

12 **Sec. 6.** All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, presidential decrees, and
13 other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed
14 repealed or amended accordingly.

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

17 Approved,