


'22 NOV 24 P2 :47

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

RECEIVED BY

**SENATE**  
S.B. No. 1548

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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**AN ACT**  
**DECLARING MT. KITUMMAN LOCATED IN BARANGAY TUNGNGOD IN THE**  
**MUNICIPALITY OF LAGAWE, PROVINCE OF IFUGAO, AN ECOTOURISM**  
**DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 16, Article II, of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "*the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.*"

The historical Bintacan Cave is situated on Mt. Kitumman, which is situated near the Ibulao River at the border of the municipalities of Lagawe and Kiangan in the Province of Ifugao. Locals are aware that Mt. Kitumman functioned as the Japanese Imperial Army's watch tower during the Second World War since it was a strategic location to observe important areas and keep an eye on the activities of the enemy. Soldiers took refuge at the Bintacan Cave where they dwelled and stored military ammunition. Even now, military artifacts from shattered Japanese pottery may still be found close to the cave, including a carving of a serpent on the roof above the cave's entrance.

Hence, this bill seeks to declare Mt. Kitumman in barangay Tunggod, Municipality of Lagawe, in the Province of Ifugao, as an ecotourism destination. The approval of this measure will not only attract local and foreign tourists but will also give high regards to the historical experiences of the people in the Province of Ifugao during the Japanese occupation in the country.


Given that Ifugao is also the location of the rice terraces, Mt. Kitumman's enhancement brought by its status as an ecotourism destination will strengthen the province's tourism industry and significantly contribute to boosting the local economy of Ifugao.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**IMEE R. MARCOS**

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

1           **SECTION 1.** Mount Kitumman located in Barangay Tungngod in the Municipality  
2 of Lagawe, Province of Ifugao, where the historical Bintacan Cave is located, is hereby  
3 declared an ecotourism destination. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the  
4 Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the  
5 development of ecotourism destinations.

6  
7           **SEC. 2.** Within six (6) months after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in  
8 coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and other  
9 concerned agencies of the government, shall prepare a tourism development plan  
10 including the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities  
11 and infrastructure that shall enhance tourism in the area: *Provided,* That said  
12 development plan shall ensure the preservation of the natural beauty and historical  
13 significance of the area.

14  
15           **SEC. 3.** The DOT, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and  
16 Highways, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and concerned local  
17 government units, shall take immediate steps to implement the tourism development  
18 plan and incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the ensuing  
19 calendar year.

20

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

4  
5           **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of  
6 the DOT shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its proper  
7 implementation.

8  
9           **SEC. 6.** All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, presidential decrees and  
10 other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed  
11 repealed or amended accordingly.

12  
13           **SEC. 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the  
14 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*