



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5936

BY REPRESENTATIVES CUARESMA, MADRONA, CHATTO, ANGARA, ALVAREZ (J.), LUISTRO, RILLO, CHAN, AGARAO, ALMARIO, AUMENTADO, MATUGAS, SINGSON (R.), EMANO, GARCIA (M.A.), SALI, HORIBATA, ZAMORA (M.C.), DELOS SANTOS, ABUNDA, LAGON (D.), MANQUIZ, OUANO-DIZON, TUTOR, GO (E.C.), BUHAIN, CAGAS, TUPAS, GO (M.), GORRICETA, DALOG, YU (J.V.), CRUZ (R.), GATO, LIMKAICHONG, ESCUDERO, CARL, YU (D.G.), SALVAME, SACDALAN, KHO (R.), LEGARDA, GULLAS, MIGUEL, ALONTE, PLEYTO, GUTIERREZ, MAGSINO, PADIERNOS, GONZALES (A.), FRASCO, HERRERA, ALBANO, BASCUG, CABREDO, CHUNGALAO, COLLANTES, KHO (O.), LOYOLA, MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, NAVA, OLIVAREZ, PLAZA, RODRIGUEZ (R.), SILVERIO AND SUANSING (M.A.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 136

AN ACT
DECLARING NARURON FALLS LOCATED IN BARANGAY OYAO,
MUNICIPALITY OF DUPAX DEL NORTE, PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA, AN
ECOTOURISM SITE

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 “Naruron Falls
- 2 Ecotourism Site Act.”

1 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The State shall promote the ideals of conserving and
2 developing the national patrimony and protecting the right of the citizenry to a balanced and
3 healthful ecology.

4 The State recognizes that ecotourism parks managed by stakeholders from local
5 communities translate into real terms the sustainable development paradigm of
6 simultaneously pursuing economic growth and of enhancing environmental preservation.

7 **SEC. 3. Naruron Falls Ecotourism Site.** – Naruron Falls located in Barangay Oyao,
8 Municipality of Dupax del Norte, Province of Nueva Vizcaya, is hereby declared an
9 ecotourism site. As such, its development shall be prioritized and supported by the
10 Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the
11 development of ecotourism sites.

12 **SEC. 4. Objectives.** – This Act seeks to:

13 (a) Provide economic opportunities to the surrounding communities of Naruron Falls
14 to increase sources of family income thereat;

15 (b) Encourage more visitors to indulge in diverse activities while appreciating the
16 natural beauty of the area, such as mountain climbing, hiking, trekking, among
17 others, to increase tourist arrivals, thereby generating various goods and
18 services and expanding the local tax base;

19 (c) Help bring about social and environmental benefits, such as:

20 (i) Provide opportunities for cultural exchange by bringing different people
21 together;

22 (ii) Showcase local crafts produced by women, out-of-school youths, persons
23 with disabilities and others, and thus provides income opportunities to
24 them;

25 (iii) Create a medium for educational research and studies; and

1 (iv) Promote physical outdoor activities to help reduce public health risks.

2 **SEC. 5. Ecotourism Development Plan.** – Within six (6) months after the approval of
3 this Act, the municipal government of Dupax del Norte shall, in coordination with the DOT,
4 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and concerned agencies of the
5 government, prepare an ecotourism development plan that shall include the construction,
6 installation and maintenance of such appropriate infrastructure and facilities to enhance
7 tourism in the area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and
8 conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the area: *Provided, further*, That the
9 implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the
10 municipal government of Dupax del Norte.

11 **SEC. 6. Naruron Falls Ecotourism Management Board.** – The Naruron Falls
12 Ecotourism Management Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, is hereby created. The
13 Board shall formulate strategies and guidelines in the operation, maintenance, promotion and
14 conservation of the ecotourism site, and shall be composed of the following:

15 (a) Municipal Mayor of Dupax del Norte, as Chairperson;

16 (b) Municipal Vice-Mayor of Dupax del Norte, as Vice-Chairperson;

17 (c) A member of the Sangguniang Bayan, to be appointed by the Municipal Mayor of
18 Dupax del Norte, as Secretary; and

19 (d) Municipal Tourism Officer, the Sangguniang Bayan Committee Chairperson on
20 Environment, the Sangguniang Bayan Committee Chairperson on Budget and Finance and
21 the Municipal Planning Development Officer, as members.

22 Additionally, three (3) stakeholders from the local community to be appointed by the
23 Municipal Mayor, upon the recommendation of the Sangguniang Barangay of Oyao, shall
24 also serve as members of the Board for a term of three (3) years.

1 The municipal government of Dupax del Norte shall provide a Secretariat for the
2 Board including the funding necessary to cover the expenses for the performance of its
3 official functions and activities.

4 **SEC. 7. *Role of the DOT.*** – The DOT shall assist the municipal government of Dupax
5 del Norte and the Board in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing
6 technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include Naruron Falls in its
7 national and regional promotion programs.

8 **SEC. 8. *Appropriations.*** – The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be
9 included in the annual budget of the municipal government of Dupax del Norte. The DOT
10 may augment such allocation with internally-generated funds.

11 **SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the
12 effectivity of this Act, the municipal government of Dupax del Norte shall, in consultation
13 with the Board, DOT, DENR and concerned agencies of the government, promulgate rules
14 and regulations to implement this Act.

15 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act shall be declared
16 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force
17 and effect.

18 **SEC. 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
19 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,