

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2735



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Introduced by: **HON. ERIC D. SINGSON**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The proposed bill aims to declare Santiago Cove in the municipality of Santiago, province of Ilocos Sur as a tourist destination.

Santiago Cove is located in Barangay Sabangan, in the town of Santiago, Ilocos Sur. It is a 10 minute drive from the Manila North Road, 30 minute drive from the City of Candon and a 45 minute drive from the City of Vigan.

Santiago Cove with its crescent moon-shaped beach is dubbed as the "Boracay of Ilocos Sur" with its pristine white sands facing the beautiful Philippine Sea.

Lack of local government funding and inadequate national support has kept Santiago Cove from reaching its true potential as a tourist destination. However, with the passage of this Act, Santiago Cove will finally get its recognition and development from the national government that it so richly deserves.

In view of the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable and ethically and socially equitable for local communities as declared in R.A. 9593, otherwise known as the "Tourism Act of 2009", the approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.

**ERIC D. SINGSON**

**CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
House Bill No. 2735

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ERIC D. SINGSON

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**AN ACT DECLARING SANTIAGO COVE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF  
SANTIAGO, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR AS A TOURIST  
DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.**

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

**SECTION 1.** The Santiago Cove is hereby declared a tourist destination to which it shall be accorded with priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of declared tourist destinations.

**SECTION 2.** The Department of Tourism, in coordination with the local government units and other concerned government agencies shall develop an overall plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of appropriate infrastructure and facilities to boost tourism in the area of Santiago Cove:

Provided, that said development plans shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural area around Pinsal Falls.

**SECTION 3.** The Department of Tourism shall take immediate steps in implementing the tourism development plan that will suit to the natural characteristic of Santiago Cove and shall incorporate the same in its overall development plans and programs for national implementation.

**SECTION 4.** It shall be the responsibility of the Department of Tourism to promote Santiago Cove as a tourism area in all its national , regional and local promotional programs.

**SECTION 5.** The Secretary of Tourism shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

**SECTION 6.** The amount necessary to carry out the provision of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

**SECTION 7.** All laws, rules, regulation, proclamations, executive orders or parts therefor inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended accordingly.

**SECTION 8.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*