Introduced by HON. SOLOMON R. CHUNGALAO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare "Bintacan Cave and Mt. Kitumman" in Barangay Tungngod, Municipality of Lagawe, Province of Ifugao as an eco-tourism destination.

The historical "Bintacan Cave" is a cave located on the top part of Mt. Kitumman along the boundary of the Municipalities of Lagawe and Kiangan along side the legendary Ibulao River. It is believed by locals that during the 2nd World War, Mt. Kitumman served as the watch tower of the Japanese Imperial Army where they could have a bird's eye view of distant places in order to monitor enemy activities. While based on Mt. Kitumman, they took refuge at the Bintacan Cave where they dwelled and stored military ammunitions. Today, historical debris from broken Japanese pots are still present on the vicinity of the cave together with the figure of a cobra snake carved out on the top ceiling of the cave entrance. On accessibility, said potential tourist spot is located along the national highway entering the Municipality of Lagawe which is along the road path going to the tourist destination towns of Banaue, Ifugao and Sagada, Mt. Province.

With this bill, "Bintacan Cave and Mt. Kitumman" will be recognized as a tourist spot that will attract tourists from Japan and the USA for its historical significance and a perfect add-on to the bucket list of tourists going to Banaue and Sagada. With its development, it will enhance eco-tourism in the Municipality of Lagawe and the Province of Ifugao as a whole that could play a vital role in boosting the capital town's and the province' local economy.

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

ATTY. SOLOMON R. CHUNGALAO

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

Eighteenth Congress
Seventh Regular Session
3362
HOUSE BILL No. _____

Introduced by HON. SOLOMON R. CHUNGALAO

AN ACT DECLARING "BINTACAN CAVE AND MT. KITUMMAN" LOCATED IN BARANGAY TUNGNGOD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAGAWE, PROVINCE OF IFUGAO AS AN ECO-TOURISM DESTINATION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

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

SECTION 1. "Bintacan Cave and Mt. Kitumman" located in Brgy. Tungngod in the Municipality of Lagawe, Province of Ifugao is hereby declared as an eco-tourism destination. As such, priority development of the "Bintacan Cave and Mt. Kitumman" shall be made by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourist spots.

SECTION 2. The DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and other concerned agaencies of the government, shall, within six (6) months after the approval of this Act, prepare the development plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities wich shall enhance tourism in the area: Provided, that said development plan shall ensure the preservation of the natural beauty and historical significance thereof.

SECTION 3. The DOT, in coordination with the other convergence agencies of the government such as the DPWH, DENR and concerned LGUs, shall take immediate steps to implement the said development plan and incorporate the same in the overall tourism development program of the Department for the ensuing calendar year.

SECTION 4. The Secretary of Tourism shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. The amount needed for the initial implementation of this act shall be appropriated from the funds of the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, such sum as maybe needed for the continued implementation, operation and maintenance of Bintacan Cave and Mt. Kitumman shall be included in the General Appropriations act.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,