

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5947



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ISAGANI S. AMATONG


EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare Situbo Falls in Barangay Situbo, Municipality of Tampilisan, Province of Zamboanga del Norte, as a tourist destination.

Situbo Falls, a hidden gem of the province, is a majestic waterfall with a drop of approximately one hundred (100) feet of cold water coming from the hinterland of Godod. Its towering two-layer cascade flows into a deep basin that reflects the thick growth of flora surrounding it. Besides its beauty, the cool water of the falls is ideal for tourists wanting to dip or swim during the hot season.

Declaring Situbo Falls as a tourist destination will not only preserve and enhance its splendor but will also improve the quality of life of the residents of the nearby areas due to additional revenues and employment opportunities from tourism activities. In turn, this will uphold the policy of the State of promoting a tourism industry that is "sustainable, cultural, ecological, accountable, economically feasible, and ethically and socially equitable to all its inhabiting populace".

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


ISAGANI S. AMATONG

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HOUSE BILL NO. _____

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE SITUBO FALLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAMPILISAN,
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE A TOURIST DESTINATION,
PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The Situbo Falls in Barangay Situbo, Municipality of Tampilisan, Province of Zamboanga del Norte is hereby declared a tourist destination. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourist destinations.

SEC. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the concerned local government units and agencies of the government, shall prepare a tourism development plan involving the construction, installation, and maintenance of appropriate infrastructure and facilities that shall enhance tourism in the area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the area: *Provided, further*, That any activities and developments to be carried out in the area should conform with the concept of ecotourism as provided in the national ecotourism strategy jointly issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the DOT.

SEC. 3. The DOT and its concerned attached agencies shall take immediate steps to implement the tourism development plan that will suit the natural characteristics of Situbo Falls, and shall incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year. It shall also include Situbo Falls in all its national, regional, and local promotion programs.

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



SEC. 5 Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DOT, in consultation with the local government unit of Tampilisan, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. All laws, rules, regulations, proclamations, executive orders, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended accordingly.

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

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'W' or 'J' followed by a checkmark-like flourish.