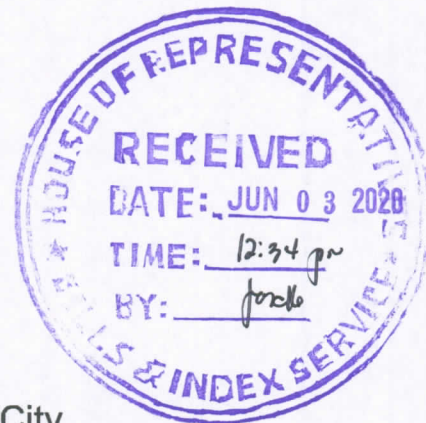




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Constitution Hills, Batasan Complex, Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6936

Introduced by **ALFEL M. BASCUG**, Representative,
1ST Legislative District of Agusan del Sur.

**“AN ACT DECLARING PINANDAGATAN FALLS IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF SIBAGAT, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR AS
AN ECOTOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”**

Explanatory Note

This bill seeks to declare Pinandagatan Falls as an ecotourism site in the Municipality of Sibagat, Province of Agusan del Sur.

Pinandagatan Falls is a newly discovered multi-tiered waterfalls situated in the far-flung barangay of New Tubigon in Sibagat, Agusan del Sur. Being immersed deep into the forest of Agusan del Sur, this is considered as an amazing and untouched hidden paradise. With its expanse of different majestic tiers, this could be the longest running waterfalls and the best waterfalls in the Caraga Region according to Caraga Backpackers Group. Being situated in the midst of lush forest, the place has become a home to various attractions such as beautiful mountains and a wide variety of flora and fauna in which tourists can enjoy numerous common ecotourism related activities such as trekking, swimming, bird watching, picnic, camping, nature viewing and nature photography. Truly, this pristine and beautiful place possesses an exotic enchantment of a jungle paradise which undeniably proves that it's more

fun in the Philippines. However, while this hidden gem is enveloped in the center of the forest, the thick shrubs and slippery roads and rocks makes it difficult to be accessed and explored by many tourists thus the tourism potential of the place has been curtailed.

With the declaration of Pinandagatan Falls as an ecotourism site, the needed development and promotion of the place would make it a fully grown tourist destination. Further, its development would boost local tourists industry, generate funds for the local government, and provide job opportunities for the people of Agusan del Sur.

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


ALFEL M. BASCUG



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

SECTION 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the Pinandagatan Falls Ecotourism Act of 2020.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. As mandated in the 1987 Philippine Constitution, 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. Further, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable and equitably beneficial to local communities.

SECTION 3. The Pinandagatan Falls Ecotourism Site. The Pinandagatan Falls located in the Municipality of Sibagat, Province of Agusan del Sur is hereby declared as an ecotourism site. Its development

shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism sites.

The DOT, in coordination with the concerned local government units as well as with the other concerned government agencies, shall prepare a tourism development plan for Pinandagatan Falls which shall be incorporated in the overall National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP), pursuant to Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as "The Tourism Act of 2009" and which shall also include the construction, installation and maintenance of appropriate infrastructure and facilities in the area; Provided, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the scenery and resources of the area.

SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DOT, in consultation with the concerned local government units, the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and other agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* 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 internally generated funds of the DOT.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or the application of such provision to other person or circumstance shall not be affected by such declaration.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* -All laws, decrees, letters of instructions, executive orders and rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof in consistent or in conflict with any provision of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* -This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,