

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 258

Submitted by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations on MAR 03 2020
Re : - House Bill No. 6447
Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 465
Sponsors : Reps. Sol Aragonese, Isidro T. Ungab and Elisa T. Kho

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations, to which was referred House Bill No. 465, introduced by Rep. Elisa T. Kho, entitled:

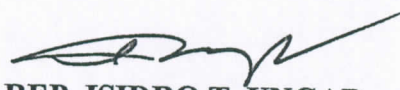
**AN ACT
DECLARING THE BAT-ONGAN PEAK, CAVE AND
UNDERGROUND RIVER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANDAON,
PROVINCE OF MASBATE AS AN ECOTOURISM ZONE,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.**

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 6447, entitled:

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE BAT-ONGAN PEAK, CAVE AND UNDERGROUND
RIVER LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANDAON,
PROVINCE OF MASBATE AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 465 with Rep. Elisa T. Kho as author thereof.

Respectfully submitted,


REP. ISIDRO T. UNGAB
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations


REP. SOL ARAGONES
Chairperson
Committee on Tourism

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

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HOUSE BILL NO. 6447

Introduced by Representative Elisa T. Kho

AN ACT
DECLARING THE BAT-ONGAN PEAK, CAVE AND UNDERGROUND RIVER
LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANDAON, PROVINCE OF MASBATE AN
ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1.** It is declared the policy of the state to promote a safe and sustainable
2 ecotourism industry consistent with the protection and preservation of the environment.

3 **Sec. 2.** The Bat-ongan Peak, Cave and Underground River located in the Municipality of
4 Mandaon, Province of Masbate are declared an ecotourism zone. As such, their development shall
5 be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and other concerned agencies, subject to the
6 rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.

7 **Sec. 3.** Within one (1) year from the approval of this Act, the DOT, the Department of
8 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the provincial government of Masbate shall
9 prepare an ecotourism master plan for the Bat-ongan Peak, Cave and Underground River.

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

1 **Sec. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, DENR, and the
2 provincial government of Masbate, in coordination with other concerned agencies of the government,
3 shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

4 **Sec. 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette
5 or in a newspaper of general circulation.

6 Approved,