

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



Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2421

Introduced by **Hon. Cyrille "Beng" F. Abueg-Zaldivar**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

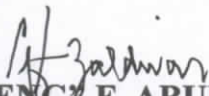
This bill anchors on Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as the "Tourism Act of 2009," which maintains that "the State declares tourism as an indispensable element of the national economy and industry of national interest and importance, which must be harnessed as an engine of socio-economic growth and cultural affirmation to generate investment, foreign exchange and employment, and to mold an enhanced sense of national pride for all Filipinos."

This measure seeks to declare Sangaran Ark Cave in Barangay Isugod, Municipality of Quezon, Province of Palawan as a tourist destination. It is aspired that the declaration of the cave would spur its development and boost its promotion by the Department of Tourism. It is hoped that the development of the area would enhance the standard of living of the populace, increase tax revenues of the municipality and the province, intensify infrastructure development, improve the quality of life of the community, and preserve and conserve this wonder of nature. Please note that this cave has already been surveyed and assessed by the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development.

Located four (4) kilometers away from the barangay proper, Sangaran Ark Cave is a gem of the tourism sector and South Palawan. It can be reached by trekkers through traversing a 45-degree climb and 10 minute tread down the Maritub River that cuts through it and the location of Mudlom Cave, which is situated nearby. The cave has a precipitous ark feature and its setting is canyon-like. In addition, the interior of the cave is surreal for it has a mini-underground river and cascading waterfalls, a rare feat of a tourist site. It is said that visitors will be rewarded with wide-eyed wonder witnessing and experiencing this exquisite creation of God.

It is noteworthy that this measure was filed by former Deputy Speaker Frederick F. Abueg, and approved, and transmitted to the Senate in the Seventeenth Congress.

Considering the significance of the measure, its passage into law is earnestly sought.


CYRILLE "BENG" F. ABUEG-ZALDIVAR
Representative, 2nd District of Palawan

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AN ACT
DECLARING SANGARAN ARK CAVE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
QUEZON, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AS TOURIST DESTINATION,
PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The Sangaran Ark Cave in the Municipality of Quezon, Province
2 of Palawan is hereby declared a tourist destination. As such, its development shall be
3 prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and
4 regulations governing the development of tourist destinations.

5 **Sec. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in
6 coordination with the concerned local government units and agencies of the
7 government, shall prepare a tourism development plan involving the construction,
8 installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure as shall
9 encourage tourism in the area: *Provided*, That said are development plan shall ensure
10 the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the area.

11 **Sec. 3.** The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the development plan
12 that will suit the natural characteristic of Sangaran Ark Cave, and shall incorporate the

1 same in its tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year. It shall also
2 include the Sangaran Ark Cave in all its national, regional and local promotion
3 programs.

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

7 **Sec. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of
8 the DOT shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper
9 implementation of this Act.

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

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

Approved,