

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

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 672



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill was originally filed during the Sixteenth Congress as House Bill (H.B.) No. 6075, approved on Third Reading, and consequently transmitted to the Senate of the Philippines on September 16, 2015. During the Seventeenth Congress, Deputy Speaker Frederick F. Abueg re-filed it as H.B. No. 5793. Again, the House of Representatives approved it on Third Reading, while the Senate received the same on August 14, 2017.

The proposed bill seeks to declare Kapangyan Falls in the municipality of Bataraza, province of Palawan, as a Tourist Destination.

Kapangyan Falls is accessible by foot from the National Highway traversing Barangay Malihud to Barangay Rio Tuba, both in the municipality of Bataraza. It can be reached by trekking the six (6)-kilometer trail of mountain slopes and ravines surrounded by greenery and forest trees. The way to the falls is slippery to rugged. The area around the falls is slippery which is caused by showers of water, making the soil soft and mushy. The stones nearby are also slippery and covered by moss. The main falls is around twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) meters high with moderate volume of water displacement. Its main pool is around two (2) to four (4) meters deep.

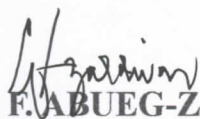
According to ancestral folklore, a beautiful maiden named Pangyan, daughter of a renowned *Panglima*, the ruler of indigenous peoples groups of the area, frequented the place and took her bath in the crystal clear pools at the base of the falls, attended by a retinue of maidens-in-waiting. When she died, the place was named in her honor, and until today the place is still known as Kapangyan and believed to be enchanted. The locals used to bring their family members for a soothing bath for a quick recovery. Those who have had a chance to bathe under the falls attest to the medical and curing effects of the cool refreshing waters of Kapangyan Falls.

Professional photographers and amateur enthusiasts alike have taken to visiting Kapangyan Falls to capture its enchanting beauty. On the bank of the falls lie flattened smooth rocks with noticeable metamorphic changes or multi-colored layers indicating

the long years of existence of these rock formations. These further give emphasis to the beauty of the falls' surrounding area.

With Kapangyan Falls being declared as a tourist destination and being covered by programs and projects of the Department of Tourism, it is certain that this wonderful gift of nature will realize improvement and be a potential source of income for its local government and the people residing within the area.

In view of the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable, and ethically and socially equitable for local communities, as declared in Republic Act 9593, otherwise known as "The Tourism Act of 2009," the approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.


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

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AN ACT
DECLARING KAPANGYAN FALLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
BATARAZA, 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 Kapangyan Falls is hereby declared tourist destination.

2 As such, it shall be accorded with priority development by the Department of
3 Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the
4 development of tourist destination.

5 **SEC. 2.** The Department of Tourism, in accordance with the local
6 government units and other concerned agencies of the government shall, within
7 one (1) year after the approval of this Act, prepare a development plan involving
8 the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and
9 infrastructure as shall enhance tourism in the area; *Provided*, That said
10 development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural
11 resources of the area.

1 **SEC. 3.** The Department of Tourism shall take immediate steps in
2 implementing the tourism development plan that will suit the natural
3 characteristic of Kapangyan Falls and shall incorporate the same in its overall
4 development plans and programs for national implementation.

5 **SEC. 4.** It shall also be the responsibility of the DOT to promote
6 Kapangyan Falls as tourism area in all its national, regional and local promotion
7 programs.

8 **SEC. 5.** The Secretary of Tourism shall issue such rules and regulations
9 as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

10 **SEC. 6.** The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act
11 shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its
12 enactment into law and thereafter.

13 **SEC. 7.** All laws, rules, regulations, proclamations, executive orders or
14 parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended accordingly.

15 **SEC. 8.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in
16 the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,