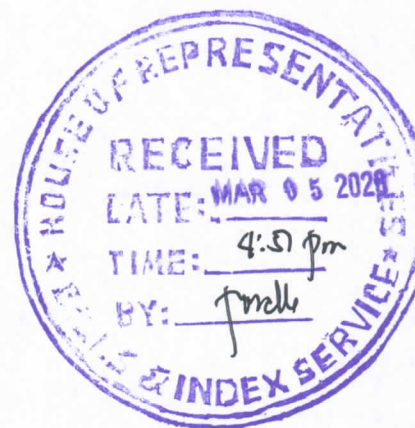


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6504

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Tau't Bato Cave located in Barangay Ransang, Municipality of Rizal, Palawan as a Tourist Destination. The Tau't Bato Cave is in the heart of the densely forested and remote Singnapan Valley.

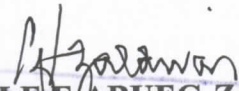
In recent years, the trek to the Tau't Bato Cave has been a must experience eco-tourism adventure in the municipality. Tau't Bato, which literally means People of the Rock, is a tribal sub-group of the Palaw'an tribe who inhabit the bowl-shaped valley. To get to the cave, tourists must traverse a 5-kilometer national highway to Sitio Balen-Balen Road and from there take a 3 to 4-hour hike.

The site boasts of both cultural and natural treasures, as Singnapan Valley itself is a gateway to Mt. Mantalingahan, the tallest peak in the province.

The Tau't Bato Cave has long been flocked to by anthropologists, writers, mountaineers, environmentalists, and students. The protection and preservation of this cultural and natural tourist attraction must be enjoined.

While the local government of Rizal fully encourages the tourism potential of the area, it is undeniable that support by the National Government, through the Department of Tourism, will further improve tourism and income generation in the locality.

In view of the policy of the State that tourism is "an indispensable element of the national economy and an industry of national interest and importance, which must be harnessed as an engine of socioeconomic growth and cultural affirmation to generate investment, foreign exchange and employment, and to continue to mold an enhanced sense of national pride for all Filipinos," as declared in Republic Act No. 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

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

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6504

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

AN ACT

**DECLARING TAU'T BATO CAVE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RIZAL,
PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AS A 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 Tau't Bato Cave located in Barangay Ransang, Rizal,
2 Palawan is hereby declared a tourist destination. As such, it shall be accorded with
3 priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the
4 rules and regulations governing the development of a tourist destination.

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

11 **SEC. 3.** The Department of Tourism shall take immediate steps in
12 implementing the tourism development plan that will suit the natural characteristic of
13 Magtayob Falls and shall incorporate the same in its overall development plans and
14 programs for national implementation.

15 **SEC. 4.** It shall also be the responsibility of the DOT to promote Tau't Bato
16 Cave as a tourism area in all its national, regional, and local promotion programs.

1 **SEC. 5.** The DOT shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for
2 proper implementation of this Act.

3 **SEC. 6.** The Secretary of the Department of Tourism shall include in the
4 Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be
5 included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into
6 law and thereafter.

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

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

Approved,