

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



Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 0673

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

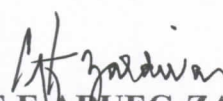
The proposed bill seeks to declare Mainit Falls and Hot Springs located in Barangay Mainit, Municipality of Brooke's Point, Palawan as a Tourist Destination. Mainit Falls and Hot Springs are located ten (10) kilometers away from the town proper. It will take approximately thirty (30) minutes by car to reach the place.

Former Deputy Speaker Frederick F. Abueg originally filed this bill during the Sixteenth Congress as House Bill (H.B.) No. 4998. He re-filed it during the Seventeenth Congress as H.B. No. 6928. The House of Representatives approved it on Third Reading on January 22, 2018, and it was transmitted to and received by the Senate of the Philippines on January 24, 2018.

As explained in H.B. No. 4998, waters from Mainit Falls descend at a height of fifty (50) meters into a natural pool. The falls serves as a source of drinking water to the residents living nearby and also irrigates neighboring rice fields. On the other hand, Mainit Hot Springs, located a few meters from the waterfalls, is known for its medicinal property. Its sulfuric waters have become known not only to local residents but also to foreign visitors. The *Trogonoptera Trojana*, a species of butterflies that is endemic to Palawan, is also abundant in the area.

While the local government of Brooke's Point 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 in the locality.

In view of the policy of the State to promote the tourism industry as an indispensable element to national economy and 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

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AN ACT
DECLARING MAINIT FALLS AND HOT SPRINGS IN THE MUNICIPALITY
OF BROOKE'S POINT, 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 Mainit Falls and Hot Springs located in Barangay
2 Mainit, Brooke's Point, Palawan is hereby declared a tourist destination. As
3 such, it shall be accorded with priority development by the Department of
4 Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the
5 development of a tourist destination.

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

13 **SEC. 3.** The Department of Tourism shall take immediate steps in
14 implementing the tourism development plan that will suit the natural

1 characteristic of Mainit Falls and Hot Springs and shall incorporate the same in
2 its overall development plans and programs for national implementation.

3 **SEC. 4.** It shall also be the responsibility of the DOT to promote Mainit
4 Falls and Hot Springs as a tourism area in all its national, regional, and local
5 promotion programs.

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

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

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

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

Approved,