

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

Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 6503**



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

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to declare Magtayob Falls located in Barangay Bunog, Municipality of Rizal, Province of Palawan as a Tourist Destination.

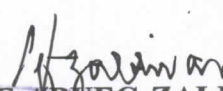
By travelling on land, this hidden paradise can be accessed through a six-kilometer road from the national highway. From this point, the real adventure begins as tourists need to travel a distance of at least 100 meters by foot from the nearest accessible riverbank.

Magtayob Falls covers an area of approximately 12 hectares, consisting of a series of falls with estimated heights of 4 to 5 meters at the ground level, 6 to 7 meters at the second level, and more unexplored series of falls in the upper portion of the mountainside, dropping to a fairly young river system with an approximate width of 3 meters.

Recently, Magtayob Falls has gained recognition from local and international tourists due to its refreshing water and serene environment. Nature lovers and tourists enjoy nature-based activities, such as: birdwatching, camping and trekking, tube rafting and jungle adventures. Due to its steep riverbank, rock climbing and rappelling can also be developed.

With the increasing number of guests, Magtayob Falls needs the proper protection and funding for its sustainable and ecologically sound management which shall benefit locals, invite more tourists and maximize its awesome tourism potential. The Municipality of Rizal with the support of the National Government, through the Department of Tourism, shall make Magtayob Falls a welcome income generating resource for the locals.

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, 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Palawan

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**AN ACT**  
**DECLARING MAGTAYOB FALLS 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.** Magtayob Falls located in Barangay Bunog, Rizal, Palawan is  
2 hereby declared a tourist destination. As such, it shall be accorded with priority  
3 development by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and  
4 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 the  
7 approval of this Act, prepare a development plan involving the construction, installation,  
8 and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure as shall enhance tourism  
9 in the area; *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and  
10 conservation of the natural resources of the area.

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

15           **SEC. 4.** It shall also be the responsibility of the DOT to promote Magtayob Falls  
16 as a tourism area in all its national, regional, and local promotion programs.

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

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

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

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

*Approved,*