



Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session



**1406**

**House Bill No.** \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by **Honorable ERLPE JOHN "PING" M. AMANTE**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to declare Lantawan Ecopark located in Barangay San Roque and Barangay Crossing, Municipality of Kitcharao, Province of Agusan del Norte as a priority tourism development area and incorporate it in the Philippine National Tourism Development Plan.

The Lantawan Ecopark is nestled on a mountainside overlooking the pristine and expansive Lake Mainit. It hosts a forest reserve and the Regional Wildlife Rescue Center; and within its vicinity is an extensive system of fairly unexplored caves that were found to contain archaeological remains. The Ecopark also has available spaces ideal for meetings, incentives, conventions, and events (MICE) facilities. On its base is the lakeshore that can be developed into a water sports center and a jump-off point for island hopping within Lake Mainit.

In account of these assets, Lantawan Ecopark certainly has the potential to become a prime ecotourism and water sports destination that can propel the tourism industry of Agusan del Norte. This valuation of the Ecopark is further bolstered with the Department of Tourism – Caraga endorsing the concreting of the road leading to the area in the Tourism Road Infrastructure Program. However, budget limitations at the municipal and provincial levels prevent the provision of support facilities in the area thus; the tourism potential is not maximized.

Through this bill, it is hoped that the national government, through the Department of Tourism and the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority, will be able to provide technical and funding assistance to the holistic development of Lantawan Ecopark to ensure that its natural beauty and historical assets are preserved and that the socio-economic benefits of tourism are felt by the locals.

Hence, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

  
**ERLPE JOHN "PING" M. AMANTE**



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**AN ACT**  
**DECLARING THE LANTAWAN ECOPARK LOCATED IN BARANGAY**  
**SAN ROQUE AND BARANGAY CROSSING, MUNICIPALITY OF**  
**KITCHARAO, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL NORTE AS A PRIORITY**  
**TOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF**

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

**SECTION 1.** The Lantawan Ecopark (9°26'14.42"N, 125°33'13.69"E) located in Barangay San Roque and Barangay Crossing, Municipality of Kitcharao, Province of Agusan del Norte is hereby declared a priority tourist development area. As such, the Department of Tourism (DOT) is mandated to incorporate it in the Philippine National Tourism Development Plan.

**SECTION 2.** The DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority, shall within one (1) year after the approval of this Act prepare a tourism development plan for the area that is cognizant of its environmental and historical significance; and undertake the implementation of the said plan.

**SECTION 3.** The DOT shall issue rules and regulations as it may deem necessary for the implementation of this Act.

**SECTION 4.** The budget necessary to the implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the DOT under the General Appropriations Act or internally generated funds of the TIEZA, or both.

**SECTION 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

**Approved,**