

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 8947


EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare Birhen Falls located in Barangay Dansolihon in Cagayan de Oro City as an eco-tourism site.

Birhen Falls could be one the many possible international tourist havens in Cagayan de Oro City. It has a wide variety of flora and fauna wherein mountaineers and tourists can enjoy several common eco-tourism related activities such as trekking, nature viewing, bird watching, swimming, nature photography and camping.

Declaring the Birhen Falls an ecotourism site will result in the development and improvement of the tourist site. It will also help the development of the local community.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

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AN ACT

**DECLARING BIRHEN FALLS IN BARANGAY DANSOLIHON IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
AN ECOTOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. The Birhen Falls in Barangay Dansolihon in Cagayan de Oro City is hereby declared an ecotourism site. Its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism sites.

SEC 2. The DOT shall prepare and incorporate the development plan for Birhen Falls in the overall National Tourism Development Plan (DP), pursuant to Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as "The Tourism Act of 2009". The plan shall be implemented jointly by the local government of Cagayan de Oro City, the local Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), and the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Site Authority (TIEZA).

The DOT, in coordination with the local government of Cagayan de Oro City, the local PAMB, TIEZA and other concerned agencies of the government, shall identify well-defined geographic areas within the Birhen Falls ecotourism site and coordinate the integrated development of these areas, including existing infrastructure and facilities, for the optimum utilization of natural assets and attractions: Provided, That the development to be undertaken shall ensure the preservation of the scenery and the historic significance of the identified tourist attractions.

SEC 3. The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and from internally generated funds of the DOT.

SEC 4. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DOT, in consultation the local government of Cagayan de Oro City, the local PAMB, TIEZA and other tourism stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC 5. All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations and other issuances contrary to or inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.