NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session

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23 MAY 24 P3:31

SENATE S.B. No. <u>2241</u>

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Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

AN ACT

DECLARING THE FUYOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK LOCATED IN BARANGAY STA. VICTORIA, CITY OF ILAGAN, PROVINCE OF ISABELA, AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 1938, then President Manuel L. Quezon issued Proclamation No. 327 establishing the Fuyot Spring National Park in the then Municipality of Ilagan, Province of Isabela. Decades have passed and the park maintained its popular attraction to hikers, mountaineers, bird watchers, and various nature trippers. Its adventurous mountain trails, magnificent caves and odd but beautiful rock formations are always a charm to tourists, both local and foreign.

This bill seeks to declare the Fuyot Springs National Park as an ecotourism destination. If enacted into law, this will ensure that the Parks' development is prioritized by the Department of Tourism. Further, it will task the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty of the Park.

With the Fuyot Springs National Park as an ecotourism destination, local economic tourist industry is likely to bloom which will definitely benefit workers in the area.

With the environmental, cultural and economic objectives of this proposal, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR. Senator

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AN ACT

DECLARING THE FUYOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK LOCATED IN BARANGAY STA. VICTORIA, CITY OF ILAGAN, PROVINCE OF ISABELA, AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION

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

Section 1. The Fuyot Springs National Park located in Barangay Sta. Victoria,
 City of Ilagan, Province of Isabela, is hereby declared an ecotourism destination.
 Pursuant thereto, its development shall be prioritized and supported by the
 Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the
 development of ecotourism destinations.

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7 **Sec. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the City Government 8 of Ilagan shall, in coordination with the DOT, Department of Environment and Natural 9 Resources and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism 10 development plan that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of 11 such appropriate infrastructure and facilities to enhance ecotourism in the area: 12 Provided, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation 13 of the natural beauty and resources of the area; Provided, further, That any activity 14 and development to be carried out in the area shall conform with the requirements of Republic Act No. 7586, otherwise known as the National Integrated Protected Areas
 System Act, as amended: *Provided, finally,* That the implementation of the tourism
 development plan shall be included in the budget of the City Government of Ilagan.

The development plan shall likewise be consistent with the Protected Area
Management Plan prepared by the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of the
Fuyot Springs National Park.

A representative from the DOT shall be included as a member of the PAMB of
the Fuyot Springs National Park.

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10 Sec. 3. The DOT shall assist the city government of Ilagan in the 11 implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in 12 tourism capacity building. It shall also include the Fuyot Springs National Park in its 13 national and regional promotion programs.

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15 Sec. 4. The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the 16 annual budget of the City Government of Ilagan. The DOT may augment such 17 allocation with internally-generated funds.

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Sec. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the City
 Government of Ilagan shall, in coordination with the DOT, DENR, concerned agencies
 of the Government, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper
 implementation of this Act.

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Sec. 6. If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid,
the other parts of provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

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Sec. 7. All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations
or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are
hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Sec. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
Official

Approved.

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