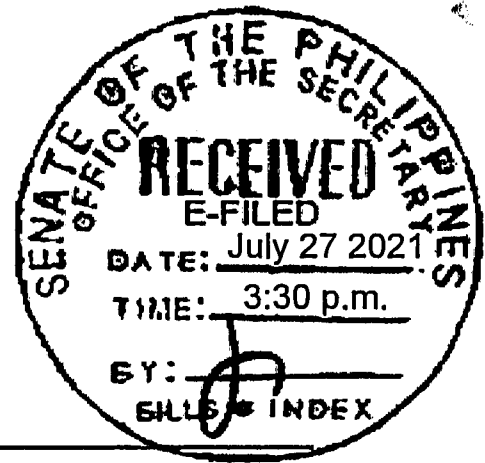


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Third Regular Session* )



SENATE  
S.B. No. 2337

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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**AN ACT DECLARING NARURON FALLS LOCATED IN BARANGAY OYAO,  
MUNICIPALITY OF DUPAX DEL NORTE, PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA,  
AN ECOTOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates that, "*The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.*"

The Naruron Falls in Barangay Oyao, Municipality of Dupax del Norte is a seven layer falls with the height of 2,634ft. The beauty of the falls and the benefits it provides to the community, such as irrigation and as the source of water energy are indications to initiate the move towards its protection and conservation through the promotion of a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable and equitable for the communities. Due to the Municipality of Dupax del Norte's geographic location and abundance of natural resources, one of the municipality's key thrusts and priority initiatives is to improve the quality of life of its residents through tourism.

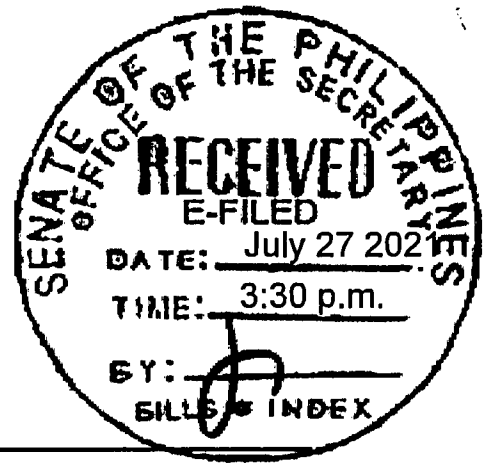
This bill therefore seeks to declare the Naruron Falls located in Barangay Oyao, Municipality of Dupax Del Norte, Province of Nueva Vizcaya, an ecotourism site. This will also boost employment and financial opportunities, conserve and preserve natural resources while also encouraging care of natural and cultural resources.

In view of the foregoing, the expeditious passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**IMEE R. MARCOS**

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

1           **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "Naruron Falls  
2           *Ecotourism Site Act.*"

3           **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The State shall promote the ideals of developing  
4           the national patrimony and protecting the right of the citizenry to a balanced and  
5           healthful ecology.

6           The State recognizes that ecotourism parks managed by stakeholders from local  
7           communities translate into real terms the sustainable development paradigm of  
8           simultaneously pursuing economic growth and of conserving the natural environment.

9           This Act likewise upholds the national policy that declares ecotourism as an  
10          indispensable element of the national economy and an industry of national interest  
11          and importance.

12          **SEC. 3. Naruron Falls Ecotourism Site.** – Naruron Falls located in Barangay Oyao,  
13          Municipality of Dupax del Norte, Province of Nueva Vizcaya, is hereby declared an  
14          ecotourism site.

15          **SEC. 4. Objectives.** – This Act seeks to provide economic opportunities to the  
16          surrounding communities of Naruron Falls and thus increase sources of family income  
17          thereat. By developing the Naruron Falls environs as an ecotourism site, it is the aim  
18          of this Act to encourage more visitors to indulge in mountain climbing, hiking, trekking  
19          and other similar activities while appreciating the natural beauty of the site. The  
20          resulting increase in tourist arrivals shall help support the local economy by the  
21          generation of various goods and services and the expansion of the local tax base.

22          Finally, this Act also aims to provide social and environmental benefits, such as:

- 23                 a) Bringing different people together and providing opportunities for  
24                 cultural exchange;

- 1           b) Showcasing local crafts produced by women, out-of-school youth,  
2           persons with disabilities and others, and thus provides income  
3           opportunities to them;  
4           c) Creating a medium for educational research and studies;  
5           d) Promoting physical outdoor activities; and  
6           e) Generating income from taxes and fees which can be ploughed back to  
7           environmental protection, plans and projects.

8           **SEC. 5. *Ecotourism Development Plan.*** – Within six (6) months after the approval  
9           of this Act, the Department of Tourism (DOT), the Department of Environment and  
10          Natural Resources (DENR), and the provincial government of Nueva Vizcaya, shall  
11          prepare an ecotourism development plan, containing among others, the construction,  
12          installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall  
13          enhance tourism in the area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the  
14          preservation of the natural beauty of the area.

15          **SEC. 6. *Implementing Agencies.*** – The DOT, the DENR and the provincial  
16          government of Nueva Vizcaya shall take immediate steps to implement the appropriate  
17          ecotourism development plan for the Naruron Falls, and shall incorporate the same in  
18          the National Tourism Development Plan.

19          **SEC. 7. *Naruron Falls Ecotourism Management Board.*** – The Naruron Falls  
20          Ecotourism Management Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, is hereby  
21          created. It shall be composed of the following:

- 22               a) Municipal Mayor of Dupax Del Norte, as Chairperson;  
23               b) Municipal Vice-Mayor of Dupax Del Norte, as Vice-Chairperson;  
24               c) A member of the Sangguniang Bayan, to be appointed by the Municipal  
25               Mayor of Dupax Del Norte, as Secretary;  
26               d) Municipal Tourism Officer, the Sangguniang Bayan Committee Chair on  
27               Environment, the Sangguniang Bayan Committee Chair on Budget and  
28               Finance and the Municipal Planning Development Officer, as members.

29          Additionally, three (3) stakeholders from the local community to be appointed by  
30          the Municipal Mayor, upon the recommendation of the Sangguniang Barangay of  
31          Oyao, shall also serve as members of the Board for a term of three (3) years.

32          The provincial government of Nueva Vizcaya shall provide a Secretariat for the  
33          Board including the funding necessary to cover the expenses for the performance of  
34          its official functions and activities.

35          The Board shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper  
36          implementation of this Act by the concerned local government units, and shall, as the  
37          need arises, amend, modify or revise such rules and regulations to meet the needs of  
38          changing times.

1           **SEC. 8. Appropriations.** – The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the  
2 Department’s program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be  
3 included in the annual General Appropriations Act, and shall augment such allocation  
4 with internally generated funds of the DOT.

5           **SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days from the  
6 effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the DENR, shall promulgate the  
7 necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

8           **SEC. 10. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act shall be declared  
9 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in  
10 full force and effect.

11           **SEC. 11. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
12 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*