



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8998

BY REPRESENTATIVES KHO, SY-ALVARADO AND NIETO, PER
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1176

AN ACT DECLARING THE BAT-ONGAN PEAK AND CAVE
LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANDAON,
PROVINCE OF MASBATE AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. It is declared the policy of the State to promote a
2 safe and sustainable ecotourism industry consistent with the
3 protection and preservation of the environment.

4 SEC. 2. The Bat-ongan Peak and Cave located in the
5 Municipality of Mandaon, Province of Masbate is declared an
6 ecotourism zone. As such, its development shall be prioritized by
7 the Department of Tourism (DOT) and other concerned agencies,
8 and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the
9 development of ecotourism zones.

10 SEC. 3. Within one (1) year from the approval of this Act, the
11 DOT, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
12 (DENR), and the Provincial Government of Masbate shall prepare a
13 master plan for the Bat-ongan Peak and Cave.

1 Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the
2 DOT, the DENR, and the Provincial Government of Masbate, in
3 coordination with other concerned agencies of the government, shall
4 likewise promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the
5 proper implementation of this Act.

6 SEC. 4. The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the
7 Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding
8 of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act
9 and internally generated funds of the DOT.

10 SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
11 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general
12 circulation.

 Approved,

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