



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9005

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BY REPRESENTATIVES KHO, BELARO AND SY-ALVARADO, PER  
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1183

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AN ACT DECLARING THE BAT-ONGAN UNDERGROUND  
RIVER 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 Underground River 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 Underground River.

14          Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the  
15 DOT, the DENR, and the Provincial Government of Masbate, in

1 coordination with other concerned agencies of the government, shall  
2 likewise promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the  
3 proper implementation of this Act.

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

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

Approved,

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