



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8987

BY REPRESENTATIVE CUARESMA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 857

**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**

*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 the
4 national patrimony and protecting the right of the citizenry to a balanced and healthful
5 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 and
11 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.

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

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

9 a) Bringing different people together and providing opportunities for cultural
10 exchange;

11 b) Showcasing local crafts produced by women, out-of-school youth, persons with
12 disabilities and others, and thus provides income opportunities to them;

13 c) Creating a medium for educational research and studies;

14 d) Promoting physical outdoor activities; and

15 e) Generating income from taxes and fees which can be ploughed back to
16 environmental protection, plans and projects.

17 **Sec. 5. Ecotourism Development Plan.** – Within six (6) months after the approval
18 of this Act, the Department of Tourism (DOT), the Department of Environment and Natural
19 Resources (DENR), and the provincial government of Nueva Vizcaya, shall prepare an
20 ecotourism development plan, containing among others, the construction, installation and
21 maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall enhance tourism in the
22 area: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation of the natural beauty
23 of the area.

24 **Sec. 6. Implementing Agencies.** – The DOT, the DENR and the provincial
25 government of Nueva Vizcaya shall take immediate steps to implement the appropriate

1 ecotourism development plan for the Naruron Falls, and shall incorporate the same in the
2 National Tourism Development Plan.

3 **Sec. 7. Naruron Falls Ecotourism Management Board.** – The Naruron Falls
4 Ecotourism Management Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, is hereby created. It
5 shall be composed of the following:

- 6 a) Municipal Mayor of Dupax Del Norte, as Chairperson;
- 7 b) Municipal Vice-Mayor of Dupax Del Norte, as Vice-Chairperson;
- 8 c) A member of the Sangguniang Bayan, to be appointed by the Municipal Mayor of
9 Dupax Del Norte, as Secretary;
- 10 d) Municipal Tourism Officer, the Sangguniang Bayan Committee Chair on
11 Environment, the Sangguniang Bayan Committee Chair on Budget and Finance
12 and the Municipal Planning Development Officer, as members.

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

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

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

23 **Sec. 8. Appropriations.** – The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the
24 Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included
25 in the annual General Appropriations Act, and shall augment such allocation with internally
26 generated funds of the DOT.

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

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

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

9 Approved,