AN ACT
DECLARING KURJANAN FALLS IN BARANGAY IGSORO, MUNICIPALITY OF BUGASONG, PROVINCE OF ANTIQUE, AN ECOTOURISM SITE PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proposed bill seeks to declare the Kurjanan Falls located in Barangay Igsoro, Municipality of Bugasong, Province of Antique as an ecotourism site.

Barangay Igsoro is located in the North-Eastern part of Paliwan river, one of the major rivers in the municipality of Bugasong. It is enclosed by mountains; Laua-an mountains in the west, Valderrama mountains on the east, mountains of barangay Pangalcagan and Yapu in the south, and mountains of Barbaza in the northern part. It is home to abundant natural resources.

Barangay Igsoro is also the home of Kurjanan Falls. It boasts of clear flowing water, rolling green hills, and rich flora and fauna. With the declaration as an ecotourism destination, the needed development of Kurjanan Falls will be fast-tracked while the preservation and conservation of its natural resources will be ensured. This would also spur growth and bring opportunities to the local and nearby communities.

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

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

SECTION 1. The Kurjanan Falls in Barangay Igso, Municipality of Bugasong, Province of Antique is hereby declared an ecotourism site. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism sites.

SECTION 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the concerned local government units and agencies of the government, shall prepare a tourism development plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure as shall encourage tourism in the area: Provided, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the area.

SECTION 3. The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the development plan that will suit the natural characteristic of Kurjanan Falls, and shall incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year. It shall also include the Kurjanan Falls in all its national, regional and local promotion programs.

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

SECTION 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DOT shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. All laws, rules, regulations, proclamations, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended accordingly.
SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,