Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
E-Filed
RECEIVED
DATE March 7, 2023
TIME 8:00am
BY Aiza
BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7484**

INTRODUCED BY REP. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In line with the vision to enliven the tourism scene in the province, the Provincial Government of Samar initiated a program in 2015 called the Spark Samar, which ultimately aims to promote and introduce the image of Samar Province as a potential tourist destination in the country. With the continued and unified support of Samarnons, this initiative transformed into a much bigger cause called the Spark Samar Development Agenda (SSDA).

Relevantly, several tourism circuits in the First District of Samar, along with the individual tourism sites located therein, were identified as potential tourist destinations that can generate great economic activity and provide livelihood to surrounding communities. One of these destinations is the Pinipisakan Falls located in the Municipality of San Jorge, Province of Samar. The Pinipisakan Falls offers an ethereal view of waterfalls cascading into a basin of clear blue water. This destination offers an opportunity for various leisure activities for both locals and tourists.

The proposed establishment of the Pinipisakan Falls as an ecotourism site will greatly aid in the development of its potential as a tourist destination in the Province of Samar and will definitely put a spotlight on the humble town of San Jorge. More so, establishment of the Pinipisakan Falls as an ecotourism site will surely boost the realization of Provincial Government of Samar's visions under the Spark Samar Development Agenda.

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

STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7484**

INTRODUCED BY REP. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

AN ACT DECLARING PINIPISAKAN FALLS LOCATED IN BRGY BLANCA AURORA, BRGY TOMOGBONG, BRGY CALUNDAN IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JORGE, PROVINCE OF SAMAR AS AN ECO-TOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. ***Short title***. - This act shall be known as the "Pinipisakan Falls Ecotourism Act."

SECTION 2. ***Declaration of Policy***. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable and equitable for local communities. To this end, the State shall endeavor to provide the proper mechanisms and infrastructures for sustainable tourism development. It shall promote and develop certain areas and sites identified as tourist destinations or attractions or having potential for tourism to drive and propel inclusive growth throughout the country.

SECTION 3. ***The Pinipisakan Falls Ecotourism Site***. The Pinipisakan Falls located in Barangay Blanca Aurora, Barangay Tomogbong, and Brgy Calundan in the Municipality of San Jorge, Province of Samar is hereby established as an ecotourism site. Its development shall be incorporated in the Department of Tourism's (DOT) National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP) successor plan for 2023 – 2028 and be jointly implemented with the Municipality of San Jorge and Provincial Tourism Office of the Province of Samar. The construction and maintenance of infrastructure facilities in the

area shall be a shared responsibility of the DOT and the local government unit with emphasis on sustainable development and resource management.

SECTION 4. ***Appropriations***. - The DOT, DENR, DPWH, and LGU shall include in its Annual Investment Program (AIP) the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations***. - The Samar Tourism Council, after due consultation with the DOT, DENR, DPWH, LGUs, and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days after its effectivity. Provided, That the law shall take effect after sixty (60) days with or without the IRR.

SECTION 6. ***Separability Clause***. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. ***Repealing Clause***. - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and issuances, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall be deemed amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. ***Effectivity***. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,