HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 857

Submitted by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations on MAR 1 2 2021
Re : House Bill No. 8987
Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 888
Sponsors : Representatives Sol Aragones, Eric Go Yap and Luisa Lloren Cuaresma

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Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations, to which was referred House Bill No. 888, introduced by Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, entitled:

AN ACT
DECLARING THE NARURON FALLS SITUATED IN BARANGAY OYAO, MUNICIPALITY OF DUPAX DEL NORTE, PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA AS ECO TOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATE FUNDS THEREFOR

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 8987, entitled:

AN ACT
DECLARING NARURON FALLS LOCATED IN BARANGAY OYAO, MUNICIPALITY OF DUPAX DE NORTE, PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA, AN ECOTOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 888 with Representative Luisa Lloren Cuaresma as author thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

REP. ERIC GO YAP
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

REP. SOL ARAGONES
Chairperson
Committee on Tourism

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8987
(In Substitution of House Bill No. 888)

Introduced by Representative Luisa Lloren Cuaresma

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:

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Naruron Falls Ecotourism Site Act."

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State shall promote the ideals of developing the national patrimony and protecting the right of the citizenry to a balanced and healthful ecology.

The State recognizes that ecotourism parks managed by stakeholders from local communities translate into real terms the sustainable development paradigm of simultaneously pursuing economic growth and of conserving the natural environment.

This Act likewise upholds the national policy that declares ecotourism as an indispensable element of the national economy and an industry of national interest and importance.

Sec. 3. Naruron Falls Ecotourism Site. - Naruron Falls located in Barangay Oyao, Municipality of Dupax del Norte, Province of Nueva Vizcaya, is hereby declared an ecotourism site.

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

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

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

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

c) Creating a medium for educational research and studies;

d) Promoting physical outdoor activities; and

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

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

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

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

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

a) Municipal Mayor of Dupax Del Norte, as Chairperson;

b) Municipal Vice-Mayor of Dupax Del Norte, as Vice-Chairperson;

c) A member of the Sangguniang Bayan, to be appointed by the Municipal Mayor of Dupax Del Norte, as Secretary;

d) Municipal Tourism Officer, the Sangguniang Bayan Committee Chair on Environment, the Sangguniang Bayan Committee Chair on Budget and Finance and the Municipal Planning Development Officer, as members.

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

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

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

Sec. 8. Appropriations. - 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 shall augment such allocation with internally 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,