HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9363

BY REPRESENTATIVE AMATONG, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 972

AN ACT
DECLARING THE SITUBO FALLS LOCATED IN BARANGAY SITUBO,
MUNICIPALITY OF TAMPILISAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, A
TOURISM DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The Situbo Falls located in Barangay Situbo, Municipality of Tampilisan, Province of Zamboanga del Norte, is hereby declared a tourism destination. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourism destinations.

SEC. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT shall, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and concerned local government units (LGUs) and agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation, and maintenance of appropriate infrastructure and facilities to enhance tourism in the area: Provided, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the area: Provided, further, That any activity and development to be carried out in the area shall conform with the concept of ecotourism as provided for in the National Ecotourism Strategy jointly formulated by the DOT and the DENR.
SEC. 3. The DOT and its concerned attached agencies shall take immediate steps to implement the development plan with due consideration to the natural characteristics of the Situbo Falls, and shall incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the calendar year immediately succeeding the approval of this Act. It shall also include the Situbo Falls in all its national, regional and local promotion programs.

SEC. 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 shall augment such allocation with internally generated funds of the Department.

SEC. 5 Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT shall, in consultation with the LGUs concerned, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, presidential decrees and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,