

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

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1015

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RECEIVED

DATE: 04 JUL 2015

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BY: [Signature]

REGISTRATION UNIT
BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

Introduced by **Hon. Frederick F. Abueg**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill was filed in the Sixteenth Congress as House Bill No. 6074. It has been approved in the House of Representatives for three readings per House Committee Report No.: 00846. Consequently, it has been transmitted to the Senate of the Philippines on September 16, 2015.

The proposed bill seeks to declare Gangub Cave in barangay Sandoval, municipality of Bataraza, province of Palawan as tourist destination. Gangub Cave is located approximately twenty (20) kilometers from the town center of the municipality of Bataraza.

This cave resembles a ten-storey building with a towering height of more or less one hundred (100) feet from the base. Its main entrance has an elevation of at least thirty-nine (39) feet which requires an individual to climb the concrete steps toward the mouth of the cave.

An estimate of fifty (50) steps is needed before a person reaches the main entrance of the cave. It is similar to a dome of a big cathedral which can accommodate a large group of people at a time, reaching to as many as five hundred (500) individuals.

Inside the cave is the main chamber which is about thirty (30) meters and can be likened to the Peñablanca Cave of Cagayan and the Bathala Cave of Marinduque. The air is cool within the cave and it is home to thousands of bats.

In view of the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable, and ethically and socially equitable for local communities, as declared in Republic Act 9593, otherwise known as "The Tourism Act of 2009", the approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.


FREDERICK F. ABUEG
Representative, 2nd District of Palawan

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AN ACT
DECLARING GANGUB CAVE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BATARAZA,
PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AS TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR
ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The Gangub Cave is hereby declared tourist destination. As
2 such, it shall be accorded with priority development by the Department of
3 Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the
4 development of tourist destination.

5 **SEC. 2.** The Department of Tourism, in accordance with the local
6 government units and other concerned agencies of the government shall, within
7 one (1) year after the approval of this Act, prepare a development plan involving
8 the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and
9 infrastructure as shall enhance tourism in the area; *Provided,* That said
10 development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural
11 resources of the area.

12 **SEC. 3.** The Department of Tourism shall take immediate steps in
13 implementing the tourism development plan that will suit the natural
14 characteristic of Gangub Cave and shall incorporate the same in its overall
15 development plans and programs for national implementation.

1 **SEC. 4.** It shall be the responsibility of the DOT to promote Gangub
2 Cave as tourism area in all its national, regional and local promotion programs.

3 **SEC. 5.** The Secretary of Tourism shall issue such rules and regulations
4 as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

5 **SEC. 6.** The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act
6 shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its
7 enactment into law and thereafter.

8 **SEC. 7.** All laws, rules, regulations, proclamations, executive orders or
9 parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended accordingly.

10 **SEC. 8.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in
11 the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,