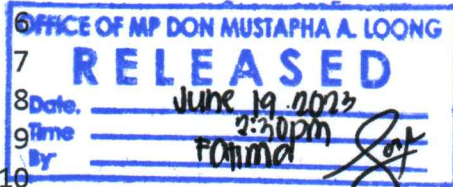


1 Republic of the Philippines
2 Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
3 BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY
4 Cotabato City
5



BTA PARLIAMENT
Second Regular Session

Parliament Bill No. 217



11 Introduced by
12 MP Engr. Don Mustapha A. Loong, JD, MPSA, CESE

13 Co-authored by
14
15 MPs Atty. Laisa A. Alamia, Engr. Baintan A. Ampatuan, Atty. Rasol Y. Mitmug,
16 Amilbahar S. Mawallil, Atty. Suharto M. Ambolodto, Rasol E. Ismael, Benjamin T.
17 Loong, Jaafar Apollo Mikhail L. Matalam, Abdulkarim T. Misuari, Atty. Jose I.
18 Lorena, Abdulaziz M. Amenoden, Diamila D. Ramos, Adzfar H. Usman, Mohammad
19 Kelie U. Antao, Eddie M. Alih, Tawakal B. Midtimbang, Mudjib C. Abu, Suwaib L.
20 Oranon, Bassir D. Utto, Bai Maleiha B. Candao, Michael E. Midtimbang, Basit S.
21 Abbas, Muslimin A. Jakilan, and Dr. Susana S. Anayatin
22
23

24
25 AN ACT
26 DECLARING "KUTAWATO CAVE" LOCATED IN BARANGAY ROSARY
27 HEIGHTS 1, CITY OF COTABATO, A HISTORICAL HERITAGE SITE AND AN
28 ECOTOURISM DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
29
30

31 EXPLANATORY NOTE

32
33 Kutawatu Cave, located in Brgy. Rosary Heights 1 in Cotabato City is among the
34 numerous attractions that can be found in the Bangsamoro Region, which is rich in
35 historical and cultural values.

36
37 During the Spanish subjugation, the cave became the refuge of our forefathers. At
38 the height of the Japanese invasion, the same cave served the many purposes of our
39 guerrillas.


40
41 Among its unique features is the fact that it is the only cave in the entire country
42 that is located in the heart of the city and has many hidden underground passageways,
43 one of which connects to the oldest church in the city, the Tamontaka Church. It is also
44 the source of the city's name.

1
2 Yet, aside from the modest efforts of the City Government of Cotabato to secure
3 the same, no importance was given to it by the national agencies.
4

5 Fortunately, our Mujahideen, some of whom are members of this august body,
6 had succeeded in securing for the Bangsamoro our rights to self-governance and the
7 freedom to pursue our own political, economic, social, and cultural development. For this
8 purpose, Section 24 of the Bangsamoro Organic Law mandates the Bangsamoro
9 Government to "preserve the history, culture, art traditions, and the rich cultural heritage
10 of the Bangsamoro people and their Sultanates, such as those of Sulu, Maguindanao,
11 Kabuntalan, Buayan, the Royal House of Ranao and of the Iranun, and the non-Moro
12 indigenous peoples of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region."
13

14 It, therefore, behooves us that we take steps to protect and preserve this monument
15 as a source of our pride and part of our history of struggle. This proposed bill is among
16 our small steps to preserve our history, culture, and heritage.
17

18 I, therefore, seek your support for the passage of this bill.
19
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21

22 
23 HON. ENGR. DON MUSTAPHA A. LOONG, JD, MPSA, CESE
24 *Member of Parliament - Bangsamoro Transition Authority*
25

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28 ECOTOURISM DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
29

30 *BE IT ENACTED* by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority in Parliament assembled:

31
32 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Historical Site and Eco-tourism Destination.** - The
33 "Kutawato Cave," located in Barangay Rosary Heights 1, Cotabato City, is hereby
34 declared a historical heritage site and an ecotourism destination. As such, its
35 preservation, development, and promotion shall be jointly prioritized by the Ministry of
36 Trade, Industry, and Tourism (MTIT) and the Bangsamoro Commission for the
37 Preservation of Cultural Heritage (BCPCH).
38

39 **SECTION 2. Development Plan.** - Within six (6) months after the approval of this Act,
40 the MTIT and the BCPCH, in coordination with the Cotabato City Tourism Office (CCTO)
41 and other concerned agencies of government, shall prepare a historical heritage site
42 conservation plan and an ecotourism development plan containing, among others, the
43 conservation, preservation, rehabilitation, construction, installation, and maintenance of
44 such appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall enhance tourism in the area;

1 Provided, That said conservation and development plan shall ensure the preservation of
2 the natural beauty and historical significance of the site.
3

4 **SECTION 3. *Implementing Agencies.*** - The MTIT and the BCPCH, in coordination with
5 the Ministry of Public Works (MPW), the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources
6 and Energy (MENRE), and the City Government of Cotabato, shall take immediate steps
7 to implement the site preservation and ecotourism development plan for "Kutawato
8 Cave." It shall incorporate the same in the Regional Tourism Development Plan that the
9 MTIT shall hereafter develop.
10

11 **SECTION 4. *Appropriations.*** - An initial amount of Three Million Pesos (Php
12 3,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated and shall be made available to the implementing
13 agencies referred to in Section 3 of this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary
14 for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual Bangsamoro
15 Appropriations Act.
16

17 **SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (60) days from the
18 effectivity of this Act, the MTIT and the BCPCH shall promulgate the necessary rules and
19 regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.
20

21 **SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.*** - All regional laws, rules, and regulations inconsistent
22 with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed and amended
23 accordingly.
24

25 **SECTION 7. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
26 in the Bangsamoro Gazette or a newspaper of regional circulation.
27

28
29 **APPROVED,**
30

31
32 Author:

33
34 
35 HON. MP ENGR. DON MUSTAPHA A. LOONG, JD, MPSA, CESE
36
37

38 Co-authors:

39
40 HON. MP ATTY. LAISA A. ALAMIA

41
42 HON. MP ENGR. BAIN TAN A. AMPATUAN

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44 HON. MP ATTY. RASOL Y. MITMUG

1
2 HON. MP AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL
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28 HON. MP MUDJIB C. ABU
29
30 HON. MP SUWAIB L. ORANON
31
32 HON. MP BASSIR D. UTTO
33
34 HON. MP BAI MALEIHA B. CANDAO
35
36 HON. MP MICHAEL E. MIDTIMBANG
37
38 HON. MP BASIT S. ABBAS
39
40 HON. MP MUSLIMIN A. JAKILAN
41
42 HON. MP DR. SUSANA S. ANAYATIN
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Certified Correct:

PROF. RABY B. ANGKAL
Secretary General

10 Attested:

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12

13 **HON. ATTY. PANGALIAN M. BALINDONG**

14 *Speaker*