

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1903**



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*Introduced by: Representative JOHNNY T. PIMENTEL*

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Enchanted River in Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur has become a key destination for local and foreign tourists seeking to witness the beauty of the blue lagoon. It is home to various species of marine life.

Nevertheless, its fame is not without a price. The influx of visitors also threatens the ecological balance and biodiversity of the river to the detriment of its natural life forms. It is crucial that the Enchanted River is declared a natural part subject to careful management and supervision to protect its biodiversity and ensure the preservation of its enduring beauty for the benefit of the future generations.

This Bill seeks to declare the Enchanted River as a Protected Area under the category of Natural Park.

The approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.

**JOHNNY T. PIMENTEL**

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**AN ACT  
DECLARING THE ENCHANTED RIVER LOCATED IN BARANGAY TALISAY,  
MUNICIPALITY OF HINATUAN, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR AS A  
PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE CATEGORY OF NATURAL PARK**

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

**SECTION 1. *Enchanted River as a Natural Park*** – The Enchanter River in Barangay Talisay, Municipality of Hinatuan, Province of Surigao del Sur is hereby declared as a protected area under the category of a natural park.

**SECTION 2. *Supervision and Administration*** – The Municipal Government of Hinatuan, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Tourism (DoT) and the Provincial Government of Surigao del Sur, shall hold supervision and administration over the Enchanted River National Park.

**SECTION 3. *Creation of a Management Committee*** – A Management Committee shall be created for this purpose to formulate, develop and implement policies for the development of the Enchanted River National Park. *Provided*, that expenses of the Management Committee shall be borne by the Local Government Unit concerned.

The Committee shall be composed of:

- Municipal Mayor - **Chairman**
- A Representative of the Sangguniang Panlungsod - **Member**
- A Representative of the DENR - **Member**
- A Representative of the DoT - **Member**
- A Representative from reputable and duly-registered non-government organizations - **Member**
- A Representative from people's organization - **Member**

**SECTION 4. Priority in Budget Allocation.** The National Government shall appropriate such amount, as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

**SECTION 5. Budget Required.** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Tourism shall promulgate a specific programmed budget needed to cover the expenses for the implementation of this Act.

**SECTION 6. Inclusion in the Appropriations Act.** – The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act for the year following the approval of this Act.

**SECTION 7. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of the Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

**SECTION 8. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,