Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations to which was referred House Bill No. 2641, introduced by Representative Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nogales, entitled:

AN ACT
DECLARING REGINA RICA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TANAY, PROVINCE OF RIZAL AS A TOURIST DESTINATION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 8967, entitled:

AN ACT
DECLARING REGINA RICA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TANAY, PROVINCE OF RIZAL, AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 2641 with Representatives Juan Fidel Felipe F. Nogales, Sol Aragones, Alfel M. Bascug, Juliette T. Uy, Micaela S. Violago, Ciriac0 B. Gato, Jr., Fernando T. Cabredo, Arnold “Noli” D. Celeste, and Irene Gay F. Saulog as authors 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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8967
(In Substitution of House Bill No. 2641)


AN ACT
DECLARING REGINA RICA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TANAY, PROVINCE OF RIZAL, AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The Regina Rica, a scenic complex located in the Municipality of Tanay, Province of Rizal, is hereby declared an ecotourism destination. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism destinations. The DOT shall prioritize the establishment of a tourism center in the area, to be known as the Regina Rica Tourism Center.

SEC. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in consultation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of the Interior and Local Government, other concerned government agencies, local government units (LGUs) and civil society organizations, shall prepare a tourism development plan including the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall enhance, develop and promote ecotourism in the area,
improve its accessibility, and ensure the security of tourists: Provided, That said development plan shall guarantee the preservation, conservation and optimum utilization of assets and resources available therein.

SEC. 3. The DOT, in coordination with the DENR and concerned government agencies and LGUs, shall take immediate steps to implement the development plan that will fit the natural features of the Regina Rica and incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year. It shall also include the Regina Rica in all its national, regional and local promotions 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 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

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

SEC. 7. If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,