



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors**
Forest Management Bureau
Land Management Bureau
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
Biodiversity Management Bureau

The Regional Executive Director
DENR - Region I
DENR - Cordillera Administrative Region

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS AND INVITATION TO ATTEND
THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES**

DATE : 25 August 2022

The Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives will hold a Committee Meeting, with the DENR Secretary, on **31 August 2022 (Thursday), 9:30 in the morning, at Andaya Hall, House of Representatives**. Under the Agenda, the following measures are to be deliberated, thus, the Committee is seeking your official position on the matter:

- A. Philippine Ecosystem And Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS)
 1. **House Bill No. 73**, entitled "*An Act Institutionalizing The Philippine Ecosystem And Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS), Mandating Its Use In Policy And Decision-Making, Designating The Agencies Responsible For Its Implementation, Providing Institutional Arrangements Among Responsible Agencies, Appropriating Funds Therefore And For Other Purposes*", authored by Rep. Jose Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez, PhD.; and
 2. **House Bill No. 2604**, entitled "*An Act Institutionalizing The Philippine Ecosystem And Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS), Mandating Its Use In Policy And Decision-Making, Designating The Agencies Responsible For Its Implementation, Providing Institutional Arrangements Among Responsible Agencies, Appropriating Funds Therefor And For Other Purposes*", authored by Rep. Antonio "AA" B. Legarda.
- B. Specific Forest Limits (National)
 1. **House Bill No. 2596**, entitled "*An Act Providing For The Delineation Of The Specific Forest Limits Of The Public Domain And For Other Purposes*", authored by Rep. Jose Manuel F. Alba; and

2. **House Bill No. 3707**, entitled “*Act Providing For The Delineation Of The Specific Forest Limits Of The Public Domain And For Other Purposes*”, authored by Rep. Ralph G. Recto

C. Forest Land Cadastral Bill

1. **House Bill No. 1162**, entitled “An Act To Establish The Forest Cadastre, Providing For Its Procedures And For Other Purposes”, authored by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda

D. For Review of Technical Description:

1. **House Bill No. 2841**, entitled “*An Act Reclassifying Certain Public Lands Within The Strip Of Land Five (5) Kilometers From Either Side Of The Aspiras Highway, From The Municipality Of Agoo, Province Of La Union To The Municipality Of Tuba, Province Of Benguet Covered By Proclamation No. 1754 As Alienable And Disposable Lands*”, authored by Rep. Dante S. Garcia.

In this regard, may we request your comments and position paper not later than 30 August 2022. Further, we highly encourage your attendance at the above-mentioned meeting as the Agenda will tackle bills that are of significance to your mandates. Attached herewith are the Invitation Letter, Agenda, and copy of the House Bills to be deliberated, from the Committee on Natural Resources, for your reference.

For your information and action, please.



ROMIROSE B. PADIN

CORRECTION RE Invitation and Request for Position Paper, August 31, 2022

From: House Committee on Natural Resources
(committee.naturalresources@house.gov.ph)

To: fmb@denr.gov.ph

Bcc: denrlegislative@yahoo.com

Date: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 at 02:15 PM GMT+8

Dear Sir/Madam:

Good afternoon! We apologize for the mistake in the Notice sent earlier.

The face-to-face Meeting of the Committee on Natural Resources will be held on **August 31, 2022 (WEDNESDAY), 9:30 in the morning, at Andaya Hall, House of Representatives.**

Please find attached the Amended Notice of Meeting and Amended Agenda. Kindly acknowledge receipt of this email.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully yours,

Lucille Gabriel
SLSO II



Committee on Natural Resources

House of Representatives

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CORRECTED Invite for 31 August 2022 Meeting FMB.pdf
177.1kB



Agenda Regular Meeting 31 August 2022.pdf
172.8kB



HB00073.pdf
2.9MB



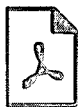
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HB03707.pdf
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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
August 31, 2022 (Wednesday) 9:30 AM
Face-to-Face Meeting

Regular Meeting

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call/ Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
- II. Acknowledgement of Members and Resource Persons**
- III. Opening Remarks of the Chairperson**
- IV. Briefing by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on their Proposed Legislative Agenda for the 19th Congress**
- V. Initial Consideration of the Following Measures**
 - A. Philippine Ecosystem And Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS)**
 1. **House Bill No. 73**, entitled *“An Act Institutionalizing The Philippine Ecosystem And Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS), Mandating Its Use In Policy And Decision-Making, Designating The Agencies Responsible For Its Implementation, Providing Institutional Arrangements Among Responsible Agencies, Appropriating Funds Therefore And For Other Purposes”*, authored by Rep. Jose Francisco “Kiko” B. Benitez, PhD.; and
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C. Forest Land Cadastral Bill

1. **House Bill No. 1162**, entitled "*An Act To Establish The Forest Cadastre, Providing For Its Procedures And For Other Purposes*", authored by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda

VI. Other Matters

House Bill No. 2841, entitled "*An Act Reclassifying Certain Public Lands Within The Strip Of Land Five (5) Kilometers From Either Side Of The Aspiras Highway, From The Municipality Of Agoo, Province Of La Union To The Municipality Of Tuba, Province Of Benguet Covered By Proclamation No. 1754 As Alienable And Disposable Lands*", authored by Rep. Dante S. Garcia.

VII. Adjournment

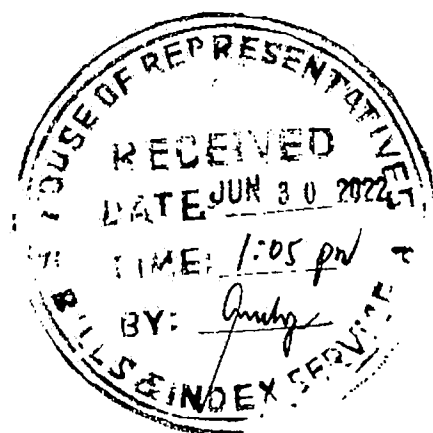
Resource Persons:

1. Sec. Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
2. Forest Management Bureau
3. Land Management Bureau
4. National Economic and Development Authority
5. Department of Budget and Management
6. Philippine Statistics Authority
7. Department of the Interior and Local Government
8. Department of Education
9. League of Provinces
10. Biodiversity Management Bureau
11. DENR Region I
12. DENR CAR

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 73



Introduced by **REP. JOSE FRANCISCO "KIKO" B. BENITEZ, Ph.D.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The existential threat of climate change and environmental collapse calls for a change in how we view Nature.

As we extract more and more of our natural resources to satisfy the appetite for food, water and energy of our growing population, we are damaging our environment, destroying habitats of hundreds of species. Nature simply cannot keep up with our demands – it is becoming slow to regenerate and replenish itself.

Hence, we need to realize that human civilization – our life – is inextricably linked to Nature. We rely on the abundance of the soil, of the seas – and if the trees and the corals disappear, so are clean air, water, and fish that sustain us.

We must recognize that natural resources and ecosystems are an integral, inseparable part of our patrimony and heritage, of our destiny.

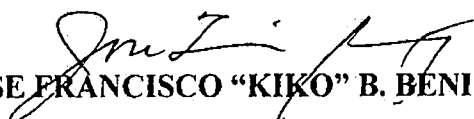
We must therefore determine the value of our natural assets to understand how high the cost is when we allow for its destruction. The long-term impact of environmental damage on our economy and social order must appear in our developmental models so that we prevent worse ecological disaster and the corresponding disruptions to our food systems and water security, and the social unrest that come with poverty, vulnerability and desperation.

It is said that we cannot manage what we cannot measure. It thus becomes urgent to account for the ecosystem services – the benefits that nature provides to humanity, from carbon sequestration and climate regulation to groundwater recharge and air purification – and the costs of the disruption of the life-supporting and life-sustaining natural cycles.

Not all natural resources are renewable – some are finite. Timber from our forests, fish from our seas, copper from our mines – they are not “endless” nor are they “free”.

We must “value” our natural capital – protect it for the benefit of future generations. After all, we are not masters of the earth, but stewards of nature.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


JOSE FRANCISCO "KIKO" B. BENITEZ, Ph.D.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 73

Introduced by **REP. JOSE FRANCISCO “KIKO” B. BENITEZ, Ph.D.**

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE ECOSYSTEM AND NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING SYSTEM (PENCAS), MANDATING ITS USE IN POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING, DESIGNATING THE AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION, PROVIDING INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AMONG RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) Law.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

- (a) Recognize natural ecosystems as an integral part of our patrimony and heritage;
- (b) Protect and promote ecological balance, and advance the right of the people to live in harmony with nature;
- (c) Adhere to the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting that measures and monitors the dynamic interaction and intersections of the environment, the economy and society;
- (d) Develop a comprehensive information system and accounting framework that will take into consideration the role of our natural capital, consisting of both environmental and natural resources, and its impact on the country’s economy;
- (e) Integrate natural capital accounting into the national income accounting system, strengthening and building on Republic Act No. 10625 on environmental accounts and statistics;
- (f) Identify indicators that will facilitate the integration of environmental and natural resource concerns in national development planning and policy making, in allocation of budgets, and in designating statistics that will be produced regularly for an identified period of analysis;

- (g) Establish and improve inter-agency coordination for the purpose of linking economic and environmental and natural resource information and efficient data management among concerned agencies and their partner institutions and establish an office to guide such coordination; and,
- (h) Understand nature's pricelessness, its intrinsic value, and its interdependencies in the implementation of the foregoing policies to consider that nature and ecosystems have inherent right to exist, with an end in view of recognizing legal rights that serve to protect endangered ecosystems and applying the precautionary principle, especially when economic values cannot be estimated.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – for purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined as follows:

- (a) Ecosystem refers to a complex community of living organisms, their physical environment, and all their interrelationships in a particular unit of space, and the biotic and abiotic components are linked together through nutrient cycles and energy flows;
- (b) Natural capital refers to the concept of nature as a stock that provides a flow of benefits to people and the economy. Natural capital consists of the stocks of natural assets, both biotic and abiotic components, and renewable and non-renewable natural resources. It includes air, water, soil, minerals, forests, coral reefs, seagrass beds, and all living things. It is from this natural capital that humans derive a wide range of goods and services, which make human life and civilization possible;
- (c) Ecosystem services refers to the flows of benefits which people gain from natural ecosystems. Food, water, energy, or climate regulation are examples of ecosystem services. These provide people everywhere with the means for healthy lives and underpin all economic activity;
- (d) United Nations System of Environment-Economic Accounting System (UN SEEA) refers to the framework that integrates economic and environmental data to provide a more comprehensive and multipurpose view of the interrelationships between the economy and the environment and the stocks and changes in stocks of environmental assets, as they bring benefits to humanity.

SEC. 4. *Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System.* – A system of environmental-economic accounting is hereby institutionalized to be called the Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System, hereafter referred to as PENCAS.

PENCAS shall be established based on existing environmental accounting systems that are covered by the UN SEEA and are theoretically correct and accepted as evaluated based on international standards.

PENCAS shall provide an exhaustive list of statistics that represent the state of our natural resources and ecosystems, including the costs of air, solid waste, and marine pollution and damage to the environment due to human activities in our terrestrial and maritime domains, and environmental protection expenditures.

SEC. 5. Objectives of the PENCAS. – The PENCAS shall supplement the current System of National Accounts and shall perform the following functions:

- (a) Guide the collection, generation, analysis and presentation of environmental statistics and data;
- (b) Inform economic-environmental policy development and decision-making;
- (c) Generate the Philippine counterpart of the UN SEEA satellite accounts covering both the Central Framework and the Ecosystem Accounts;
- (d) Contribute to efforts to protect, conserve and restore ecosystems and habitats, especially the ones in critical danger, in line with our commitment to fulfill the objectives and targets of key multilateral environmental agreements, including the United Nations Decade of Ecological Restoration, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

SEC. 6. Involvement of Government Agencies. – The following departments and offices under or attached to them shall be involved in the establishment and institutionalization of the PENCAS:

- (a) National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA);
- (b) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (denr);
- (c) Department of Science and technology (DOST);
- (d) Department of Agriculture (DA);
- (e) Department of Energy (DOE);
- (f) Department of Transportation (DOTr);
- (g) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
- (h) Department of Tourism (DOT);
- (i) Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);
- (j) Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD);
- (k) Department of Health (DOH);
- (l) Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- (m) Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)
- (n) and other agencies, as necessary.

SEC. 7. Participation of Specific Bureaus Within the Agencies. – The following offices shall contribute to the collection, generation, analysis and presentation of statistics and data requirements of the PENCAS:

- (a) All bureaus of the DENR, including the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority;
- (b) National Water Regulatory Board;
- (c) Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources;
- (d) Bureau of Soils and Water Management;
- (e) National Renewable Energy Board;
- (f) Research and development institutes, and science and technology services of the DOST;
- (g) Philippine Coconut Authority;
- (h) Philippine Fisheries Development Authority;
- (i) Philippine Rice Research Institute;
- (j) National Irrigation Administration;

- (k) Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration; and,
- (l) Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology;

SEC. 8. *Creation of the PENCAS Units.* – PENCAS units shall be created within the organizational structure of the departments identified under Sec. 6 of this Act.

The head of PENCAS units shall be no lower than a division chief, and shall be, as far as practicable, utilize existing employees for staffing.

SEC. 9. *Functions of PENCAS Units.* – PENCAS units created under Sec. 8 of this Act shall perform the following functions:

- (a) Develop methodologies and approaches for the collection, development and compilation of data on ecosystem service accounts, emission accounts, ocean accounts, or such other accounts relevant to the department's mandates;
- (b) Collaborate with the scientific community in conducting research and studies related to PENCAS;
- (c) Integrate sustainable development principles and practices, especially resource recovery, low-carbon development, and indigenous knowledge systems and practices, in the plans, policies and programs of their offices;
- (d) Enhance statistical literacy of their personnel;
- (e) Prioritize the collection, generation and analysis of environmental data to support our shift to blue and green economy; and,
- (f) Institutionalize open data for independent and external research and studies.

SEC. 10. *Functions of the NEDA.* – The PENCAS unit at the NEDA shall:

- (a) Conduct consultations, orientations and capacity-building activities on the PENCAS and its widest cascading and implementation in the entire bureaucracy, local government units, the private sector, civil society, and other social institutions;
- (b) Coordinate the conduct of studies and research in support of policy development related to PENCAS;
- (c) Formulate and update periodically indicators on economy-environment interactions, and regenerative and sustainable development indices; and,
- (d) Provide technical services to the (1) the development and budget coordination committee for the integration of natural capital in macroeconomic planning and the allocation of the national budget, (2) the Investment coordination committee for the review and evaluation of major infrastructure and development projects, in terms of sourcing of raw materials and its attendant risks and costs, its social impact and economic benefits; and, (3) to task forces or special bodies, now existing and henceforth created, on the environment.

SEC. 11. *Role of Local Government Units.* – Local government units shall endeavor to create PENCAS accounts, according to the templates and guidelines provided for by the PSA and DILG, and are encouraged to innovate and adopt measures and methods of resource valuation and damage estimation according to their local contexts.

SEC. 12. *PENCAS in the Educational System.* – The Department of Education shall craft modules in all levels and modalities of basic education to develop ecological consciousness, environmental literacy and social responsibility.

The Commission on Higher Education, and the Professional Regulation Commission shall likewise integrate ecological consciousness, environmental literacy and social responsibility in higher education and continuing professional education programs, and develop the understanding of the impact of professions on the environment.

SEC. 13. *Participatory Mechanisms.* – Each PENCAS unit shall institute mechanisms for the widest dissemination of the guiding principles and concepts of the PENCAS, and for feedback and crowdsourcing. Any citizen shall have the right to information on PENCAS data, and the right to seek explanation from any government agency for neglect of duties mandated by this Act. PENCAS data shall be released alongside national economic data to highlight the inextricable relationship between the environment and economic development.

SEC. 14. *Rights of Nature.* – nothing in this Act shall be construed to mean that nature has no intrinsic value separate and distinct from its economic value, or that it loses priceless value through such valuation.

SEC. 15. *Support to PENCAS Research and Data Management.* – The Department of Budget and Management shall give utmost consideration to the budgetary requirements for PENCAS research and data management in preparing the National Expenditure Program, and ensure that government spending supports sustainable development and does not compromise ecological balance.

SEC. 16. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The NEDA shall convene an inter-agency working group, composed of the agencies enumerated under Sections 6 and 7 of this Act, to craft the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within 120 days since the approval of the same.

SEC. 17. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act or a portion thereof is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 18. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 19. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 2604

Introduced by Hon. Antonio B. Legarda Jr.

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE ECOSYSTEM AND NATURAL
CAPITAL ACCOUNTING SYSTEM (PENCAS), MANDATING ITS USE IN
POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING, DESIGNATING THE AGENCIES
RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION, PROVIDING INSTITUTIONAL
ARRANGEMENTS AMONG RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The connection between the economy and the environment is crucial. All the resources required for the economic production of goods and services are available in the environment. It is the driving force behind a nation's economic expansion, yet conventional accounting techniques neglect to account for the influence the environment has on a country's decision-making.

Historically, a nation's economic development has been assessed using its Gross National Product (GNP) and Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The GNP and GDP provide data on the size and health of an economy, but they are only accurate for products and services produced, sold, and purchased within the economy. Climate change, waste management, and the existing rate of depletion and deterioration of environmental assets are not taken into account. For policymakers to create the responsive, pertinent, and efficient laws, policies, and programs required for national development, it should include both environmental and non-environmental economic inputs and outputs to accurately gauge the economic growth of a country.

Thus, in order to improve the distribution of environmental assets and encourage long-term sustainable economic growth, this bill seeks to institutionalize the Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) to

reflect environmental inputs and outputs in the determination of national income accounts.

In line with the policy adopted by its original proponent Senator Loren Legarda, this bill therefore likewise serves as a counter-part House Bill. It is for the reasons stated above that the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


ANTONIO B. LEGARDA JR. 

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
House Bill No. 2604

Introduced by Hon. Antonio B. Legarda Jr.

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE ECOSYSTEM AND NATURAL
CAPITAL ACCOUNTING SYSTEM (PENCAS), MANDATING ITS USE IN
POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING, DESIGNATING THE AGENCIES
RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION, PROVIDING INSTITUTIONAL
ARRANGEMENTS AMONG RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) Law of 2022, which shall adhere to the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA).

Sec 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

- a. Promote the common good, conserve and develop our patrimony, as provided in the Preamble of the Constitution, natural capital being the bedrock of the national patrimony;
- b. Develop a comprehensive information system and accounting framework that will take into consideration the role of our natural capital, consisting of both environmental and natural resources, and its impact on the country's economy;
- c. Include and institutionalize natural capital accounting as part of the national income accounting system, strengthening and building on RA 10625 on environmental accounts and statistics;

- d. Provide indicators that will facilitate the integration of environmental and natural resource concerns in national development planning and policymaking, in the allocation of budgets, and in designating statistics that will be produced regularly for an identified period of analysis.
- e. Establish and improve interagency coordination for the purpose of linking economic and environmental and natural resource information and efficient data management among concerned agencies and their partner institutions and establish an office to guide such coordination; and
- f. Include nature's pricelessness, its intrinsic value, and its interdependencies in the implementation of the foregoing policies to consider that nature and ecosystems have intrinsic rights to exist, with an end view of recognizing legal rights that serve to protect endangered ecosystems and applying the precautionary principle, especially when economic values cannot be estimated;

Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined as follows:

- a. *Ecosystem* - a complex community of living organisms, their physical environment, and all their interrelationships in a particular unit of space, and the biotic and abiotic components are linked together through nutrient cycles and energy flows
- b. *Capital* - a stock concept, which yields a periodic income, which is a flow concept
- c. *Natural capital* - the concept of nature as a stock that provides a flow of benefits to people and the economy. Natural capital consists of the stocks of natural assets – both biotic and abiotic. It includes air, water, soil, minerals, forests, coral reefs, seagrass beds, and all living things. It is from this natural capital that humans derive a wide range of goods and services, which make human life possible. The goods and services that natural capital provides, such as food,

water, energy, or climate regulation, are called ecosystem services. These provide people everywhere with the means for healthy lives and underpin all economic activity

- d. *Ecosystem services* - the flows of benefits, which people gain from natural ecosystems, while natural capital consists of the stock of natural ecosystems or stock of renewable and non-renewable natural resources from which these benefits flow
- e. *The United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)* - a framework that integrates both economic and environmental data to provide a more comprehensive and multipurpose view of the interrelationships between the economy, the environment and ecosystems, and the stocks and changes in stocks of natural assets, as they bring benefits to humanity.

Sec. 4. *Philippine Environmental and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS)*. - A System of Environmental-Economic Accounting is hereby institutionalized within the government bureaucracy. The Philippine Environmental and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) shall be based on the existing environmental accounting frameworks that are covered by the UN SEEA and are theoretically correct and accepted as evaluated based on international standards.

Among others, the PENCAS framework shall include a list of the officially designated statistics on the depreciation of natural capital, environmental protection expenditures, pollution and quality of land, air and sea, environmental damages, and genuine savings. It shall conform to and expound, expand and localize the UN SEEA. A roadmap and manual for further development of these indicators for each of the terrestrial (land and freshwater) and blue (marine) economies shall be formulated. The draft roadmap and international manuals shall be customized to the ecosystems in the Philippine archipelago that support the terrestrial (land and freshwater) and blue (marine) economies. All these data shall constitute the Philippines' natural capital, the conservation of which shall be paramount.

Sec. 5. *Objectives of the PENCAS*. - The PENCAS shall supplement the current System of National Accounts and shall have the following major functions:

- a. To support economic-environmental policy development and decision-making;
- b. To generate the Philippine version of the UN SEEA satellite accounts covering both the Central Framework and the Ecosystem Accounts;
- c. To serve as a comprehensive data framework in the generation of PENCAS statistics; and
- d. To ensure that ecosystems and habitats, especially the ones in critical danger of irreparable damage, are conserved and restored, in line with the objectives and timelines of key Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including the United Nations Decade of Ecological Restoration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Sec. 6. Involvement of Government Agencies. – The following agencies and the concerned offices under or attached to them shall be involved in the establishment and institutionalization of the PENCAS:

- a. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
- b. Department of Agriculture (DA);
- c. Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA);
- d. National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA);
- e. Department of Energy (DOE);
- f. Department of Tourism (DOT);
- g. Department of Transportation (DOTr);
- h. Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH),
- i. Department of Health (DOH);
- j. Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- k. Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
- l. Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD);
- m. National Water Regulatory Board (NWRB); and
- n. Other agencies, as necessary.

Sec. 7. *Duties of Specific Bureaus within the Agencies.* – The following Bureaus shall have special mandates for natural capital accounting herein based on their primary functions:

- a. Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources;
- b. Bureau of Soils and Water Management;
- c. All Bureaus of the DENR, including the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), and National Water Resources Board (NWRB);
- d. National Renewable Energy Board (NREB);
- e. Research and Development Institutes and Science and Technology Services of the DOST;
- f. Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA);
- g. Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice);
- h. National Irrigation Administration (NIA);
- i. Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA); and
- j. Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology; (PHIVOLCS)

Sec. 8. *Creation of the Natural Capital Units.* – Natural Capital units shall be created within the organizational structure of the DENR, DA, PSA, NEDA, DOE, DOT, DOTr, DPWH, DTI, DOH, DILG, DOST, DHSUD, and other agencies as necessary.

The head of the Natural Capital Units in the foregoing government agencies should be a Division Chief or higher level. The Department Head shall designate existing personnel within the Department or hire new ones within its budget to operate its Natural Capital Unit.

Sec. 9. *Staffing Pattern for Natural Capital Units.* – The agencies concerned shall, as much as practicable, utilize existing qualified employees for staffing the Natural Capital Units. In case, however, of a lack of qualified employees who have the skills and capabilities required for the functions of the Units, the concerned agency shall

be allowed to include new plantilla items in accordance with the prescribed procedures therefor.

Sec. 10. *Functions of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)*. – The Natural Capital Unit at the PSA shall have a pivotal role in the implementation of the PENCAS:

- a. Compile and collate PENCAS Accounts, and study and formulate viable approaches and methodologies for the PENCAS;
- b. Formulate templates, guidelines, and digital aids to ensure that all units, especially local governments, generating PENCAS data do so in a manner that can be efficiently consolidated, compared and analyzed, and ensure public accessibility for these tools;
- c. Explore ways and means to modify and improve current environmental and economic statistics, in coordination with the concerned data producers and users, including those in the academe, private sector, and non-governmental organizations;
- d. Include natural resource and environment-related questions in the PSA's census and surveys, such as, but not limited to, Census of Establishments, Annual Survey of Philippine Business and Industry, Family Income and Expenditure Survey, Labor Force Survey, Survey on Tourism Establishments, Surveys of Household and Establishment Energy Consumption, Fisheries and Aquaculture Surveys, Agriculture, Livestock and Poultry surveys, Community-Based Monitoring System, and any surveys these may change into or be added to them.
- e. Collect data up to the fourth-digit level of the Philippine Standard for Industrial Classification, particularly for data needed in the ocean accounts, and update the Input-Output and Supply and Use tables regularly.
- f. Develop a satellite account for the oceans, including ocean-based and ocean-related economic activities or sectors, coastal and marine ecosystems (e.g. mangroves, seagrass, coral reefs, tidal flats, etc.), and marine water quality;

- g. Enhance the water accounts to include both water resources (quantity) and water quality for surface water and groundwater (water asset account) and water supply and use account, including water supply in relation to climate trends or extreme climatic events in coordination with DENR (Environmental Management Bureau and National Water Resources Board), and DPWH (Bureau of Research and Standards);
- h. Update the Input-Output tables regularly, incorporating the PENCAS accounts; and;
- i. Serve as a repository of all PENCAS-related data and materials through the National Statistical Information Center and make the PENCAS data available on the PSA website;

Sec. 11. *Natural Capital Units at National Agencies.* – The Natural Capital Units at the DENR, DA, NEDA, DILG, DOE, DOT, DOTr, DPWH, DTI, DOH, DILG, DOST, and DHUSD shall:

- a. Develop and apply, with its various offices, attached agencies, GOCCs, and beneficiaries, the data collection, development and compilation of resource or natural asset and ecosystem service accounts, environment and emission accounts and ocean accounts, relevant to each agency's mandates, and formulate viable data development approaches and methodologies in coordination with PSA;
- b. Collaborate with the science community in conducting studies and research in support of policy development related to PENCAS;
- c. Ensure that sustainable development principles, especially regenerative resource use/resource conservation and climate and environmental and indigenous biodiversity considerations, are integrated into all its bureaus and offices and in their policy, national and project planning, and implementation based on PENCAS results; and Strengthen its statistical capabilities, especially regulatory monitoring, to provide environmental and natural resources data and

accounts to other national government agencies, local government units, private sector, civil society, and other data users;

- d. Prioritize the data generation for the PENCAS accounts for the blue economy, particularly for areas of national patrimony most in danger of exploitation and appropriation, such as the West Philippine Sea and the Philippine Rise;
- e. Institutionalize open data for the studies and research in support of policy development related to PENCAS.

The DILG shall assist the local governments in building capacity and performing the above functions as far as they are able in order to build their own PENCAS accounts. It shall also consolidate local government data and statistics and compare these with the national accounts as generated by the other agencies.

Sec. 12. Duties of Specific Bureaus within the Agencies. – The following Bureaus shall have special mandates for natural capital accounting herein based on their primary functions:

- a. Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
- b. Bureau of Soils and Water Management
- c. All Bureaus of the DENR, especially the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA)
- d. National Renewable Energy Board (NREB)
- e. Research and Development Institutes and Science and Technology Services of the DOST;
- f. Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA);
- g. Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice);
- h. National Irrigation Administration (NIA);
- i. National Water Resources Board (NWRB);
- j. Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA); and
- k. Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS)

Sec. 13. *Functions of the National Economic Development Authority and the NEDA Board.* – The Natural Capital Unit at the NEDA shall:

- a. Coordinate the conduct of consultations, orientations, trainings, and seminars on the PENCAS and its implementation for the national government agencies, local government units, and other concerned institutions as well as on request by the private sectors and civil society organizations, upon their request;
- b. Coordinate the conduct of studies and research in support of policy development related to PENCAS and provide training for non-governmental entities on generating natural capital data and statistics;
- c. Establish a mechanism for integration of environmental and regenerative resource conservation considerations in national, regional, local and sectoral planning, policy, project development, and implementation based on PENCAS results, particularly assuring that legally extracted resources and energy are sufficient for the plans for their sustainable use;
- d. Formulate and update indicators on the economy-environment interactions and regenerative and sustainable development indices;
- e. Provide technical services to the (i) Presidential Commission on Natural Capital, (ii) Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) for the integration of environment, ecosystems, natural capital, and climate change in macroeconomic planning and allocation of expenditures and capital outlays, (iii) Investments Coordinating Committee that would review the completeness of project-evaluation and ensure that it is inclusive of economic benefits and costs, sources of proposed natural resources, risks and uncertainty due to climate change, natural capital, environmental, biodiversity and social safeguards, justification of use if nonrenewable resource, and matching of natural capital supply and demand, and (iv) any Task Forces or deputized or contracted entities, which the Presidential Commission on Natural Capital may create or partner with for the coordinated

functioning of the data-generating agencies and quality decision-making; and

- f. The NEDA Board and its instrumentalities shall ensure that PENCAS is considered in all its policy decisions and project evaluation systems. In order to ensure this, the composition of the NEDA Board shall always include the departments that generate the most crucial data on PENCAS accounts, such as the DENR and DA.

Sec. 14. *Data and Research Support.* - The PSA, in coordination with the involved agencies, shall designate the required environment and economic statistics in the agencies and bureaus that shall be responsible for generating such data. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall ensure that such research and data management are supported to prevent government spending that would unduly compromise PENCAS accounts and ecosystem services or the deterioration of the national patrimony.

Sec. 15. *Creation of the Presidential Commission on Natural Capital Accounting.* - A commission is hereby created to ensure the fulfillment of the objectives of this law and coordinate the performance of the functions of the agencies enumerated. It shall have the following composition:

- a. The President or his appointee to the Commission as Chair;
- b. An Economic statistician
- c. An Environment and Natural Resources Economist
- d. A Terrestrial ecologist who shall ALSO cover freshwater ecosystems;
- e. A Marine ecologist who shall cover coastal and marine ecosystems;
- f. An Environmental Lawyer;

All Commissioners shall be appointed by the President from nominations by the agencies or civil society conglomerations.

Sec. 16. *Functions of the Commission.* - The Commission shall provide directions for the coordinated functioning and implementation of the Natural Capital Units. It shall create ad-hoc or permanent inter-agency committees and task

forces that will support the data and technical requirements of the departments and their Natural Capital Units. It shall ensure that the Officials, as well as other instrumentalities of government, have access to PENCAS data and endeavor to ensure that such data are used in policy and decision-making, taking care, however, that there are security measures to prevent poaching or any foreign intrusion that could impact our utilization and enjoyment of our natural resources.

The designated Undersecretary level officials in charge of policy and planning in their agencies shall represent the member agencies for DENR, DA, DOE, DOT, DOTr, DPWH, DOST, DTI, DILG, DOH, DHUSD, NEDA, and PSA in all technical working groups constituted by the Commission.

The Commission shall compile existing surveys and data generation activities of all government agencies to ensure that the information needed for generating the accounts are efficiently captured, including but not limited to existing physical accounts and monetary accounts, data from the Community-Based Monitoring System, DENR's Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring System and Socio-Economic Assessment and Monitoring System, and monitoring data from projects, such as the Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES), Environment Natural Resource Accounting Project (ENRAP) and the National Greening Program, the Department of Agriculture's Ocean accounts, data submitted by license, permit and certification applicants, and the like.

Sec. 17. *Government Planning Mechanisms and the Environmental Impact Assessment System.* – In all government planning, considerations of PENCAS shall be included. In the Environmental Impact Assessment System, the DENR shall ensure that the natural environment, ecosystem services, and natural capital are framed as opportunities, benefits or assets as opposed to being merely a constraint or backdrop to absorb impacts. The Commission shall ensure a wide availability of tools, methods and skills that can support the consideration of ecosystem services as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment and ensure the inclusion of such in the development of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), further including in such rules accounting for activities that may degrade the natural capital considerably despite not being under the coverage of the Philippine EIS System.

Sec. 18. *Role of the Local Government Units.* – In their planning and local legislation duties, local governments shall endeavor to create and populate PENCAS accounts, in compliance with templates and guidelines from the PSA and DILG, and in addition, employ other innovative measures and methods of resource valuation, damage estimation, ecosystem services and natural capital accounting to highlight their ecological competitive edge.

Sec. 19. *PENCAS in the Educational System.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) shall cause the crafting of modules in all levels of the formal and non-formal education spheres to ensure that all citizens, and especially the academe, are able to help change the definition of economic success towards defining wealth inclusively, to generate, analyze and use the PENCAS to its maximum effect and assess the systemic extent of nature-related financial risk. The CHED shall include PENCAS in all curricula and the DepEd shall ensure that PENCAS is incorporated in current courses on these subjects with the objective of generating credible, decision-grade data, which government, businesses and financial institutions and civil society can use to fully integrate nature-related considerations into their decision-making and assess and disclose their use of and impact on nature.

The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) shall ensure that PENCAS is included in all professional examinations.

Sec. 20. *Rights of Nature.* – Nothing in this Act shall be construed to mean that nature has no intrinsic value separate and distinct from its economic value, or that it loses interdependencies and pricelessness by such valuation. Whenever data or accounts tend to show that the valuation of ecosystems or discrete and identified life-support mechanisms will commodify and or degrade them, any citizen is authorized to submit a registration to the Commission for the latter's recognition of such intrinsic value and the right of such ecosystem or mechanism to exist and maintain its integrity, which registration the Commission is required to accept. The generated data and accounts can still be used but only for the purpose of the recognition of such rights rather than for commodification or ecologically unacceptable trade-offs.

Sec. 21. *Participatory Mechanisms and Citizen Remedies.* – Each Natural Capital Unit shall institute consultative mechanisms, mass collaboration measures, and digital comment and recommendation solicitations to effectively popularize PENCAS and ensure wide comprehensibility and usage of the accounts.

Any citizen shall have to right to information on any accounts generated under this Act, have the standing to compel the performance of any of the mandates under this Act, and seek justification from any government agency who may have ignored or neglected PENCAS data in their policy or decision-making. Major PENCAS accounts, results on nature’s wealth and the economic value of ecosystem services shall be released along with all releases of national economic data, such as GNI, GDP and other often-released measures of the state of the country’s economic health and highlight the contribution of resources and ecosystems to the economy, incomes and employment.

Sec. 22. *Appropriations.* – The creation and initial funding of the Commission shall be Two Hundred Million Pesos (Php 200,000,000.00) to be sourced from excesses in funds, such as, the funds under RA 9147, RA 8749 and similar special accounts, especially the ones that have remained dormant. Two Billion Pesos (Php 2,000,000,000.00) shall be apportioned by the Department of Budget and Management for the performance of agency functions required herein for the generation of data through expeditions and scientific investigations in the terrestrial/freshwater and marine disciplines. Eight Hundred Million Pesos (Php 800,000,000.00) shall be apportioned to the agencies for the creation and improvement of their Natural Capital Units. The apportionment and allocations shall be based on the plan and priorities decided by the Commission in coordination with the agencies performing the functions. These shall be included in the budget preparation of each agency to be incorporated in the annual general appropriations act under separate fund items.

Sec 23. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* –The Commission shall constitute an interagency working group to craft the IRR and is hereby given the

authority to adopt such IRR, the adoption of which shall constitute its inclusion as part of the administrative rules and regulations of all members of the Committee.

Sec. 24. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

Sec. 25. *Repealing Clause.* - All other laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, other issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

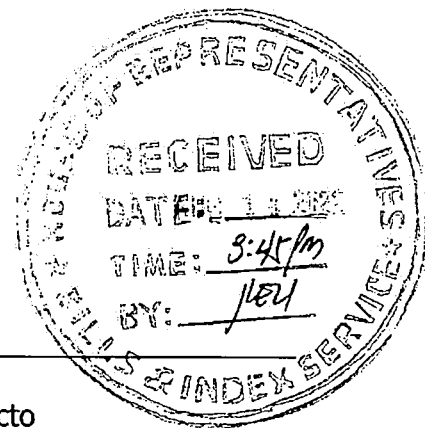
Sec. 26. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H.B. No. 3707



Introduced by Representative Ralph G. Recto

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE DELINEATION OF THE SPECIFIC FOREST LIMITS OF
THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution provides that Congress shall determine by law the specific limits of forest lands and national parks, which shall thereafter be conserved and may not be increased nor diminished.

According to government statistics, half of the country's total land area or roughly 15.05 million hectares is classified as forest land. These lands classified under forest land are further disaggregated into different categories, such that only 3.27 million hectares out of the 15.05 million hectares are classified as forest reserves. However, the lack of demarcation separating the lands classified as forest reserves from other classes may have resulted to an inaccurate picture as to the actual size of the country's forest lands, as some may have been encroached by various adjacent land developments or have been reclassified in accordance with existing laws.

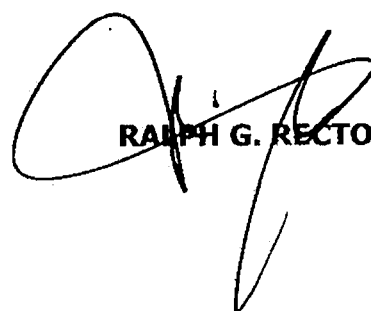
In order to mitigate further encroachment, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), as of 2017, has completed the delineation and assessment of 89,091 kilometers of forest lines for submission to the National Assessment and Delineation Committee.

However, in order to strengthen DENR's efforts in the delineation and assessment of the country's forest lands, an enabling law is necessary to provide a legal framework to preserve the remaining forest resources, protect, manage and utilize these lands for purposes consistent with sustainable development. With the growing threat of further encroachment over remaining forest lands at hand, it is imperative for government to secure forest lands from further dissipation due in part to uncontrolled development and urban expansion.

This measure seeks to define the scope of forestlands, as well as provide guidelines in determining the specific limits of forestlands. For this purpose, a National Review and Evaluation Committee, headed by the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, shall be created to process, evaluate and approve all completed assessment and delineation reports referred to the said Committee. The DENR shall, upon determination of final forest lines, delimit and establish boundary monuments on the ground. Forestlands delineated under this legislation shall be conserved and may not be increased nor decreased, except by law.

In order to resolve controversies arising from land classification as a result of the delimitation of forestlands, a Land Classification Conflict Adjudication Board shall also be created under this Bill.

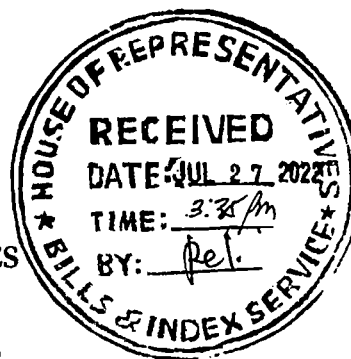
To attain ecological balance, preserve valuable ecosystems, prevent environmental degradation and promote sustainable development, approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.



RALPH G. RECTO



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2596

Introduced by Hon. Jose Manuel F. Alba

EXPLANATORY NOTE

One of the key legislative agenda of the DENR under the Climate Change and Mitigation Cluster is the delineation of Specific Forest Limits. The same is also included in the Philippine Development Plan under the past administration. This policy direction intends to pursue the action plan by identifying and providing the specific boundaries limits its of forestlands per province and delineate areas in which no other land use may prevail.

This measure puts flesh to the Constitutional mandate of ascertaining the specific boundaries of forest and protected areas, with the objective of conserving and protecting these areas from further degradation. This measure also proposes to establish a National Review and Evaluation Committee to conduct competent review, assessment, and validation of existing boundaries of forest lands, and shall recommend to Congress such boundaries.

It is also emphasized that a similar bill was filed by Representatives Acosta-Alba, Santos-Recto, Salceda, and Quimbo during the 18th Congress, and was already approved on Second Reading.

Thus, in view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly urged.

JOSE MANUEL F. ALBA
Representative, 1st District, Bukidnon

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2596

Introduced by REP. JOSE MANUEL F. ALBA

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE DELINEATION OF THE SPECIFIC FOREST LIMITS OF THE
PUBLIC DOMAIN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title - This Act shall be known as the "Forestland Limits Act".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy - It is the policy of the State to conserve, protect and develop the forest resources of the country in order to attain ecological balance, preserve valuable ecosystems, prevent environmental degradation and promote sustainable development for the present and future generations. To achieve these ends, Section 4 of Article XII of the Constitution mandates Congress to determine by law the specific limits of forestlands and national parks marking clearly their boundaries on the ground.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms - As used in this Act:

- (a) "Agricultural lands" refer to alienable and disposable lands of the public domain which have been the subject of the land classification system and declared as not needed for forest purposes
- (b) "Delimitation" refers to the establishment of permanent boundary monuments of forestland through land survey in accordance with existing standards and practices;
- (c) "Delineation" refers to the conduct of site investigation, field reconnaissance and assessment, and staking of boundaries between forestlands, national parks and agricultural lands verified in the field in accordance with the criteria set forth under Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Order No. 2008-24;

(d) "Forest" refers to a land with an area of more than 0.5 hectare and tree crown cover or equivalent stocking level of more than ten percent (10%) with trees at a minimum height of five (5) meters at maturity, in situ. It consists either of closed forest formations, where trees of various stories and undergrowth cover a high proportion of the ground or more than forty percent (40%), or open formations with a continuous vegetation cover in which tree crown cover exceeds ten percent (10%) but less than forty percent (40%). Young natural stands and all plantations established for forest purposes, which are yet to reach a crown density of more than ten percent (10%) or tree height of five (5) meters are included under forests.

(e) "Forest Reservations" refer to forestlands which have been reserved by the President of the Philippines for any specific purpose or purposes;

(f) "Production" forest lands refer to forestlands available for timber and agro-forestry production, range lands for grazing and other forest lands special uses;

(g) "Protected Area" refers to identified portions of land and/or water set aside by reason of their unique physical and biological significance, managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation.

(h) "Protection forest" lands refer to all areas within the forestlands devoted primarily for the protection, conservation of forest resources to ensure environmental stability, conservation of biological diversity, improvement of ecosystem functions and services, and provision of ecological and economic benefits. All mossy and primary or old growth forests and natural beach, key biodiversity areas, areas which are highly erodible or too rocky for establishment as production regardless of slope and vegetation cover that are developed for the principal objective of establishing vegetative cover to prevent erosion, conserve water and nurture wildlife, freshwater, swamps, and marshes, all areas along the bank of the rivers and streams, and the shores of the seas and lakes throughout their entire length and within the zone of three (3) meters in urban areas, twenty (20) meters in agricultural areas, and forty (40) meters in forest areas, along their margins which are subject to the easement of public use such as for recreation, settlements, navigation, floatage, fishing or salvage shall also be sub-classified as protection forestlands. Cutting of trees and mining are banned in these protection forestlands: Provided, That the provisions of the Republic Act No. 8371, the Indigenous People's Rights Act (IPRA) and Republic Act No. 7586, the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act shall be respected.

(i) Tenured migrant communities refer to communities within forestlands which have actually and continuously occupied such areas for five (5) years before the designation of the same as forestlands in accordance with this Act and are solely dependent therein for subsistence.

SEC. 4. Forestlands - The following shall constitute forestlands:

- (a) all lands of the public domain already classified as forestland based on existing land classification maps issued by the DENR;
- (b) all permanent forest reserves proclaimed as such by the President or declared by law; and
- (c) such areas within the unclassified lands of the public domain that were assessed and delineated by the DENR in accordance with pertinent laws, rules and regulations and which may hereafter be classified as forestland by the DENR.

SEC. 5. Determining the Specific Limits of Forestlands.- The following guidelines and procedures shall be followed in determining the specific limits of forest lands in the country:

- (a) The previously established Land Classification (LC) survey lines per province with their respective technical descriptions (TDs) and maps shall be the basic data and information that will be used as reference material in undertaking the validation, assessment and delineation process.
- (b) All completed assessment and delineation reports for a given province shall be endorsed to the National Review and Evaluation Committee as created herein to be headed by the Secretary of the DENR for final approval;
- (c) The same process shall be followed for other provinces with on— going assessments and delineation activities until such time that all the boundaries of forestlands of the whole country shall have been delimited: Provided, That all assessments, validations and delineations shall be completed not later than one (1) year after the passage of this Act.

SEC. 6. National Review and Evaluation Committee - Pursuant to the mandate embodied in Section 4, Article XII of the Constitution, and in view of the urgent need to establish the permanent limits of the forestlands of the country, a National Review and Evaluation Committee, hereinafter to be referred to as the Committee, is hereby created to process, evaluate and approve all completed assessment and delineation reports referred to in the immediately preceding section. The Committee, in its evaluation and approval of the reports, shall adhere strictly to established laws, policies, rules, regulations and guidelines pertinent thereto.

The Committee shall be composed of the following:

- (a) Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as Chairperson;
- (b) Secretary of the Socioeconomic Planning and Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority (MEDA) as Vice Chairperson;
- (c) Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) as Member;
- (d) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) as Member;
- (e) Secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) as Member; and
- (f) Chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) as Member.

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The assessment and delineation reports as approved by the Committee shall be adopted as constituting the final boundaries of the forestlands covered by the reports. The Committee shall submit to Congress the approved assessment and delineation reports for each province which shall thereafter form part of its official records.

SEC. 7. Demarcation and Delimitation of Forestland Boundary. - Immediately after the passage of this Act, the forest line determined and established by the DENR shall be adopted as the forestland boundary of the country and all monuments established shall be deemed permanent. Maps of the forestland boundary prepared by the DENR shall be attached as an integral part of this Act for reference.

SEC. 8. Permanency of the Specific Forestlands Limits.- The permanent forestland established pursuant to this Act shall not be diminished nor reduced except by an act of Congress. The DENR, in coordination with all agencies and branches of government, shall see to it that the forest cover and vegetation therein shall be protected, preserved and enhanced.

SEC. 9. Sub-classification of the Permanent Forestlands. - The DENR shall undertake the sub-classification of permanent forestlands into protection forests and production forests.

SEC. 10. Recognition of the Rights of the Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples and Tenured Migrant Communities. - In the ground delineation of the permanent forest limits, the occupation by indigenous cultural communities/indigenous peoples and tenured migrants shall be recognized and respected consistent with the provisions of Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, Republic Act No. 8371 or the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997, and Presidential Decree No. 705, as amended, or the Forestry Code of 1975.

SEC. 11. Accessibility of Records. - All records and information pertaining to the specific forest limits delineated pursuant to this Act shall be made available to all local government units (LGUs), other government agencies, and to the general public.

SEC. 12. Classification of Conflict by the Adjudication Board. - A Land Classification Conflict Adjudication Board, herein referred to as the Board, is hereby created to resolve controversies arising from land classification as a result of the delineation of forest lands pursuant to this Act. The Board shall be composed of the following:

- (a) Secretary of the Department of Justice (DOJ) as Chairperson;
- (b) Administrator of the Land Registration Authority (LRA) as Member;
- (c) Representative from the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) as Member;
- (cl) Representative from a reputable College of Forestry as Member; and
- (c) Representative from the private sector

SEC. 13. Powers and Functions of the Board – The Board shall have the following powers and functions:

- (1) Adjudicate cases on land conflicts;
- (2) Summon witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony and require the submission of reports;
- (3) Compel production of books and documents and answers to interrogatories; and
- (4) Issue subpoena duces tecum, writs of possession, writs of execution and other writs to enforce its orders and decisions.

In any proceeding before the Board, the Rules of Evidence prevailing in courts of law of equity shall not be controlling and it is the spirit and intention of this Act that shall govern.

The Board shall use every and all reasonable means to ascertain the facts in each case speedily and objectively. The findings of fact of the Board shall be conclusive and binding on the parties and its decision or order shall be final and executory. A petition for review by certiorari on any question of law may be filed by the aggrieved party with the Supreme Court within thirty (30) days from receipt of the order or decision of the Board.

SEC. 14. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting System.- To attain the objectives of this Act, a field monitoring, evaluation, and reporting system shall be adopted by the Secretary of the DENR to regularly keep track of the state of the country's forestlands after their delineation and ensure that these lands are protected and conserved.

SEC. 15. Appropriations. - The Secretary of the DENR shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of *the* Department and, thereafter, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. Funds for the implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be supplemented from any available official development assistance (ODA) and from joint projects between agencies of the Philippines and an assisting country. Local government units shall also allocate counterpart funds to be taken from their internal revenue allotment (IRA) and other LGU income for the delineation of the forest limits within their respective territorial jurisdictions.

SEC. 16. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DENR shall issue the corresponding Implementing Rules and Regulations for its implementation.

SEC. 17. Separability Clause. - When any portion of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions not affected thereby.

SEC. 18. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, letters of instruction, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 19. Effectivity - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H.B. No. 3707

Introduced by Representative Ralph G. Recto

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE DELINEATION OF THE SPECIFIC FOREST LIMITS OF
THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Forest Lands Limits
2 Act".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to conserve, protect
4 and develop the forest resources of the country in order to attain ecological balance,
5 preserve valuable ecosystems, prevent environmental degradation and promote
6 sustainable development for the present and future generations. To achieve these
7 ends, the specific limits of forest lands and national parks shall be determined by law
8 and their boundaries marked clearly on the ground.

9 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall
10 mean:

11 a) *Agricultural lands* shall refer to alienable or disposable lands of the public
12 domain which have been the subject of the land classification system
13 and declared as not needed for forest purposes;

14 b) *Delineation* shall refer to the conduct of site investigation, field
15 reconnaissance and assessment, and staking of boundaries between
16 forest lands, national parks and agricultural lands verified in the field in
17 accordance with the criteria set forth under Department of Environment
18 and Natural Resources (DENR) administrative orders;

- 1 c) *Demarcation and delimitation survey* shall refer to the establishment of
2 permanent boundary monuments of forest land through ground survey
3 in accordance with existing standards and practices;
- 4 d) *Forest lands* shall include the public forests, the permanent forest or
5 forest reserves, and forest reservations;
- 6 e) *Forest reservations* shall refer to forest lands which have been reserved
7 by the President of the Philippines for any specific purpose or purposes;
- 8 f) *Permanent forest* or *Forest reserve* shall refer to those lands of the
9 public domain which have been the subject of the present system of
10 classification and determined to be needed for forest purposes;
- 11 g) *Production forest lands* shall refer to forest lands available for timber
12 and agro-forestry production, range lands for grazing, and other forest
13 lands for special uses;
- 14 h) *Protected area* shall refer to identified portions of land and water set
15 aside by reason of their unique physical and biological significance,
16 managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against
17 destructive human exploitation;
- 18 i) *Protection forest lands* shall refer to all areas within the forest lands
19 devoted primarily for the protection and conservation of forest resources
20 to ensure environmental stability, conservation of biological diversity,
21 improvement of ecosystem functions and services, and provision of
22 ecological and economic benefits. All mossy and primary/old growth
23 forests and natural beach; key biodiversity areas; areas regardless of
24 slope and vegetation cover which are highly erodible or too rocky for
25 establishment of production forests; areas developed for the principal
26 objectives of establishing vegetative cover to prevent erosion, conserve
27 water and nurture wildlife; freshwater bodies, swamps, and marshes; all
28 areas along the bank of the rivers and streams; and the shores of the
29 seas and lakes throughout their entire length and within the zone of
30 three (3) meters in urban areas, twenty (20) meters in agricultural
31 areas, and forty (40) meters in forest areas, along their margin which
32 are subject to the easement of public use in the interest of recreation

1 settlements, navigation, floatage, fishing and salvage, shall also be sub-
2 classified as protection forest lands: *Provided*, That the provisions of
3 Republic Act No. 8371 or the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of
4 1997 and Republic Act No. 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated
5 Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 2018 shall be respected;

6 j) *Public forest* shall refer to the mass of lands of the public domain which
7 has not been the subject of the present system of classification for the
8 determination of which lands are needed for forest purposes and which
9 are not; and

10 k) *Tenured migrant communities* shall refer to communities within forest
11 lands which have actually and continuously occupied such areas for five
12 (5) years before the designation of the same as forest lands in
13 accordance with this Act and are solely dependent therein for
14 subsistence.

15 **Sec. 4. *What Constitutes the Forest Lands.*** – The following shall constitute the
16 forest lands, to wit:

17 a) all lands of the public domain already classified as forest land as per
18 existing land classification maps issued by the DENR;

19 b) all permanent forest reserves proclaimed as such by the President or
20 declared by law; and

21 c) such areas within the unclassified lands of the public domain that were
22 assessed and delineated by the DENR in accordance with pertinent laws,
23 rules and regulations and which may hereafter be classified as forest
24 land by the DENR.

25 **Sec. 5. *Guidelines in Determining the Specific Limits of Forest Lands.*** – The
26 following guidelines and procedures shall be followed in determining the specific
27 limits of forest lands in the country:

28 a) The previously-established Land Classification (LC) survey lines per
29 province with their respective technical descriptions (TDs) and maps
30 shall be the basic data and information that will be used as reference
31 material in undertaking the validation, assessment and delineation
32 process;

- 1 b) All completed assessment and delineation reports for a given province
2 shall be endorsed to the National Review and Evaluation Committee as
3 created herein to be headed by the Secretary of the DENR for final
4 approval; and
- 5 c) The same process shall be followed for other provinces with on-going
6 assessments and delineation activities until such time that all the
7 boundaries of forest lands of the whole country shall have been
8 delimited: *Provided, That* all assessments, validations and delineations
9 shall be completed not later than one (1) year after the effectivity of this
10 Act.

11 Sec. 6. *National Review and Evaluation Committee.* – A National Review and
12 Evaluation Committee is hereby created to process, evaluate, and approve all
13 completed assessment and delineation reports referred to in Section 5 of this Act.
14 The Committee, in its evaluation and approval of the said reports, shall adhere
15 strictly to existing established laws, policies, rules, regulations and guidelines
16 pertinent thereto.

17 The Committee shall be composed of the following:

- 18 a) Secretary of the DENR as Chairperson;
- 19 b) Secretary for Socioeconomic Planning and Director-General of the
20 National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) as Vice-
21 Chairperson;
- 22 c) Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government
23 (DILG) as Member;
- 24 d) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) as Member;
- 25 e) Secretary of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban
26 Development (DHSUD) as Member;
- 27 f) Chairperson of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)
28 as Member; and
- 29 g) President of the League of Provinces of the Philippines as Member.

30 Upon approval of the assessment and delineation reports, the Committee shall
31 submit the same to Congress to form part of its official records. The assessment and

1 delineation reports as approved by the Committee shall be adopted as constituting
2 the final boundaries of the forest lands covered by the said report.

3 The National Review and Evaluation Committee shall be assisted by the Forest
4 Management Bureau (FMB) of the DENR in the process, evaluation and review of all
5 completed assessment and delineation reports referred to in the preceding section.
6 The FMB staff shall serve in the National Review and Evaluation Committee without
7 compensation but may be reimbursed for basic expenses in the preparation of the
8 assessment and delineation reports.

9 *Sec. 7. Demarcation and Delimitation of Forest Land Boundary.* – Immediately
10 after the forest line has been determined following the guidelines prescribed in
11 Section 5 hereof, the DENR shall delimit and establish the permanent boundary
12 monuments on the ground.

13 *Sec. 8. Permanency of the Specific Forest Lands Limits.* – The permanent forest
14 lands established pursuant to this Act shall not be diminished or reduced except by
15 an Act of Congress. The DENR, in coordination with all agencies and branches of
16 government, shall ensure that the forest cover and vegetation therein shall be
17 protected, preserved and enhanced.

18 *Sec. 9. Sub-classification of the Permanent Forest Lands.* – The permanent
19 forest lands shall be further sub-classified as follows: (a) protection forest lands; and
20 (b) production forest lands.

21 After due consultation with the local government units (LGUs) concerned,
22 tenured migrant communities, and other stakeholders, the DENR shall undertake the
23 sub-classification of the permanent forest lands.

24 Cutting of trees and mining shall be banned in the protection forest lands.

25 *Sec. 10. Recognition of the Rights of the Indigenous Cultural*
26 *Communities/Indigenous Peoples and Tenured Migrant Communities.* – In the
27 ground delineation of the permanent forest land limits, the occupation by indigenous
28 cultural communities/indigenous peoples and tenured migrant communities shall be
29 recognized and respected, consistent with the provisions of Republic Act No. 7160 or
30 the Local Government Code of 1991, Republic Act No. 8371 or the Indigenous
31 Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997, and Presidential Decree No. 705, as amended, or
32 the Forestry Code of 1975.

1 Sec. 11. *Accessibility of Record to the Public.* – All records and information
2 pertaining to the specific forest lands limits delineated pursuant to this Act shall be
3 made available to the general public.

4 Sec. 12. *Creation of the Adjudication Board to Resolve Controversies on Land*
5 *Classification Conflicts* – A Land Classification Conflict Adjudication Board, herein
6 referred to as the Board, is hereby created to resolve controversies arising from land
7 classification as a result of the delimitation of forest lands pursuant to this Act. The
8 Board shall be composed of the following:

- 9 a) Secretary of the Department of Justice (DOJ) as Chairperson;
- 10 b) Administrator of the Land Registration Authority as Member;
- 11 c) Representative from the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) as
12 Member;
- 13 d) Representative from a reputable College of Forestry as Member; and
- 14 e) Representative from the private sector as Member.

15 Sec. 13. *Powers and Functions of the Adjudication Board.* – The Board shall
16 have the following powers and functions:

- 17 1) Resolve controversies arising from land classification as a result of the
18 delimitation of forest lands pursuant to this Act;
- 19 2) Summon witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony and require
20 submission of reports;
- 21 3) Compel production of books and documents and answers to
22 interrogatories; and
- 23 4) Issue subpoena *duces tecum*, writs of possession, writs of execution and
24 other writs to enforce its orders and decisions.

25 In any proceeding before the Board, the Rules of Evidence prevailing in courts
26 of law or equity shall not be controlling and it is the spirit and intention of this Act
27 that shall govern. The Board shall use any and all reasonable means to ascertain the
28 facts in each case speedily and objectively and without regard to technicalities of law
29 or procedure, in the interest of due process. In any proceeding before the Board, the
30 parties may be represented by legal counsel.

31 The findings of fact of the Board shall be conclusive and binding on the parties
32 and its decision or order shall be final and executory.

1 Appeal on the decision or order of the Board involving questions of law by way
2 of petition for review may be filed by the aggrieved party with the Court of Appeals
3 under Rule 43 of the Rules of Court within fifteen (15) days from notice of the order
4 or decision of the Board.

5 Sec. 14. *Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting System.* – To attain the
6 objectives of this Act, a field monitoring, evaluation and reporting system shall be
7 adopted by the DENR to regularly keep track of the state of the country's forest
8 lands after their delimitation. Toward this end, at the opening of each Session of
9 Congress, the DENR shall submit a report to the President on the status of the
10 forestlands for transmission to Congress.

11 Sec. 15. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of the DENR shall include in the
12 Department's budget program the funds necessary for the implementation of this
13 Act, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's
14 appropriations of the Department and thereafter included in the annual General
15 Appropriations Act (GAA).

16 Funds for the implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be
17 supplemented by any available Official Development Assistance (ODA) and from joint
18 projects between agencies of the Philippines and an assisting country.

19 The LGUs shall also allocate counterpart funds to be taken from their Internal
20 Revenue Allotment (IRA) and other LGU income for the delineation of the forest
21 lands within their respective territorial jurisdictions.

22 Sec. 16. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from
23 the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DENR shall issue the corresponding
24 implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

25 Sec. 17. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion of this Act is declared
26 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
27 provisions not affected thereby.

28 Sec. 18. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, letters of instruction, executive
29 orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with
30 this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

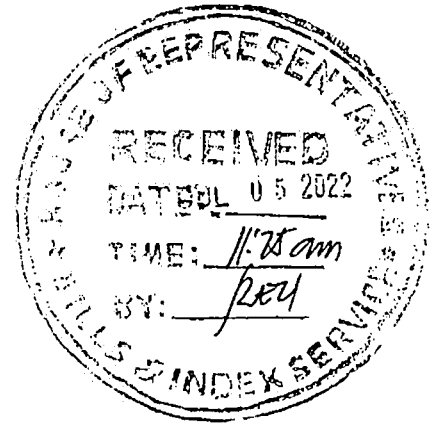
1 Sec. 19. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general
3 circulation in the Philippines.

 Approved,

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1162



Introduced by **Representative JOEY SARTE SALCEDA**

**AN ACT
TO ESTABLISH THE FOREST CADASTRE,
PROVIDING FOR ITS PROCEDURES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines has a total land area of 30 million hectares (ha). Of which, 14.2 million ha are classified as alienable and disposable lands (A&D) while 15.8 million ha are forest lands. Formal recording and public access on information on lands through a cadastre is limited only to the A&D lands while the forest lands are not part of such system. Information on forest lands is not formally recorded in a public registry making it hardly accessible. Tenurial instruments and other forms of agreements or contracts in forest lands are neither registered, systematically surveyed, nor parcelized. Tenurial instruments and resource access contracts are difficult to verify and are subject to unnecessary verification and vettings.

A critical factor in the success of sustainable forest management in the Philippines is a well-defined and secured rights. The forest cadastre as aims to establish an appropriate administration system for forest lands for formally delineating and recording rights, land values, suitable land uses, and other land-related information. This will guarantee the right and security of tenure, provide security for credit, reduce land disputes, and ensure protection and sustainable management of forest lands and the resources therein. It shall also facilitate and accelerate the settlement of claims and conflicts and provide economic data relevant to planning and development in forest lands.

The purpose of this Act is to strengthen tenure security and rights in forest lands by establishing a forest cadastre that would be integrated into the existing national land cadastre system. This is expected to contribute to the government's goal of effective, efficient, and sustainable management of forest lands.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is urgently sought.


JOEY SARTE SALCEDA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1162

Introduced by Representative JOEY SARTE SALCEDA

AN ACT
TO ESTABLISH THE FOREST CADASTRE,
PROVIDING FOR ITS PROCEDURES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Forest Land Cadastral Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to preserve, conserve and sustainably develop and manage the country’s forest lands to contribute to the development of the national wealth and to provide the current needs of the country as well as that of future generations. It is also the declared policy of the State to create a complete cadastral system that includes all classifications of lands and the tenures or titles issued thereat.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

(a) *Agricultural lands* – refer to alienable and disposable lands of the public domain which have been the subject of the land classification system and declared as not needed for forest purposes.

(b) *Ancestral domain* – refers to all areas generally belonging to indigenous cultural communities (ICCs) and/or indigenous peoples (IPs) comprising lands, inland waters, coastal areas, and natural resources therein, held under a claim of ownership, occupied or possessed by ICCs/IPs, by themselves or through their ancestors, communally or individually since time immemorial, continuously to the present except when interrupted by war, force majeure or displacement by force, deceit, stealth or as a consequence of government projects or any other voluntary dealings entered into by government and private individuals/corporations, and which are necessary to ensure their economic, social and cultural welfare. It shall include ancestral lands, forests, pasture, residential, agricultural, and other lands individually owned whether alienable and disposable or otherwise, hunting grounds, burial grounds, worship areas, bodies of water, mineral and other natural resources, and lands which may no longer be exclusively occupied by ICCs/IPs but from which they traditionally had access to for their subsistence and traditional activities, particularly the home ranges of ICCs/IPs who are still nomadic and/or

shifting cultivators.

(c) *Ancestral lands* – refer to land occupied, possessed and utilized by individuals, families and clans who are members of the ICCs/IPs since time immemorial, by themselves or through their predecessors-in-interest, under claims of individual or traditional group ownership, continuously, to the present except when interrupted by war, force majeure or displacement by force, deceit, stealth, or as a consequence of government projects and other voluntary dealings entered into by government and private individuals/corporations, including, but not limited to, residential lots, rice terraces or paddies, private forests, swidden farms and tree lots.

(d) *Delineation* – refers to the conduct of site investigation, field reconnaissance and assessment, and staking of boundaries among forest lands, national parks/protected areas, mineral lands and agricultural lands verified in the field in accordance with the criteria set forth under the existing rules and regulations of the DENR.

(e) *Forest block* – is an area of contiguous forest land measuring fifteen (15) seconds of latitude and fifteen (15) seconds of longitude at approximately 20.7 hectares per block.

(f) *Forest cadastre* – is a registry containing official, legal documentation concerning the quantity, dimension, location, value, existing tenure, and other information unique for the forest land parcel.

(g) *Forest compartment* – is the basic territorial unit of measurement permanently defined for the purpose of location, description, and record, and as a basis for forest management.

(h) *Forest land* – includes the public forest, the permanent forest or forest reserves, forest reservations, and all other lands not classified as agricultural lands, mineral lands, and national parks.

(i) *Mineral land* – means any area where mineral resources are found.

(j) *National park* – refers to a forest reservation essentially of natural wilderness character which has been withdrawn from settlement, occupancy or any form of exploitation except in conformity with approved management plan and set aside as such exclusively to conserve the area or preserve the scenery, the natural and historic objects, wild animals and plants therein and to provide enjoyment of these features in such areas.

(k) *Protected area* – refers to identified portions of land and/or water set aside by reason of their unique physical and biological significance, managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation.

SEC. 4. *Forest Land Delineation.* – The delineation of forest lands as completed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and submitted to Congress is hereby adopted. Provided that all vested rights prior to delineation within forest lands are recognized. Forest lands categorized as public forest lands shall not be reclassified, except through an Act of Congress.

SEC. 5. *Establishment of the Forest Cadastre.* – The DENR shall develop, install, maintain and update regularly a system of mapping of all forest tenurial instruments and agreements issued by the DENR in all forest lands.

Such system shall reflect all existing tenure agreements and shall show graphically said tenures. Untenured forest lands shall also be reflected and shown graphically in order to complete tenure mapping of entire municipalities and cities. An inventory of all tenure instruments shall be kept in the system.

SEC. 6. *Identification of Forest Blocks and Compartments.* – The DENR shall divide the identified forest lands, protected area and national parks, and mineral lands into forest blocks for a more efficient resource management. The size of forest compartments shall be determined by the DENR.

SEC. 7. *National Parks and Protected Areas.* – All protected areas and national parks in non-agricultural or inalienable lands shall be included in the cadastre. Existing surveys covering areas under the National Integrated Protected Area Systems (NIPAS) Act of 1992 and the Expanded National Integrated Protected Area Systems Act of 2017 shall be included in the cadastre.

SEC. 8. *Mineral Lands.* – All mineral lands in non-agricultural or inalienable lands shall be included in the cadastre. Existing surveys covering areas under the People's Small-scale Mining Act of 1991 and the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 shall be included in the cadastre.

SEC. 9. *Proclamations and Reservations.* – All existing proclamations and reservations within forest lands that are not included in the NIPAS Act of 1992, E-NIPAS Act of 2017, People's Small-scale Mining Act of 1991, and the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 shall be included in the cadastre.

SEC. 10. *Ancestral Domains and Ancestral Lands.* – All surveys covering areas under the Indigenous People's Rights Act of 1997 shall be included in the forest cadastre and shall be reflected in the maps. For this purpose, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) is required to submit all of its delineation surveys to the DENR for inclusion in the cadastre, including those that will be approved by the NCIP subsequent to this Act.

SEC. 11. *Persons Authorized to Conduct Forest Land Surveys.* – Duly licensed geodetic engineers who are in the service of the DENR, employed or contracted out, or any other authorized geodetic engineers may undertake the survey of forest lands, subject to the administrative direction, control, and supervision of the DENR.

SEC. 12. *Authority to Conduct Forest Land Surveys.* – The DENR may order the geodetic engineers employed by the Department or contract out to duly licensed geodetic engineers to conduct forest land surveys.

SEC. 13. *Entry on Forest Lands.* – It shall be lawful for duly licensed geodetic engineers and other employees of the DENR to enter forest lands whenever necessary for the surveying and establishment of monuments.

It shall be the duty of every tenure holder or every person claiming an interest in the

forest land to be surveyed to communicate to the DENR all information possessed by such person concerning the boundary lines of the particular portion of the forest land.

SEC. 14. *Interference with Surveys and Monuments.* – Any person who shall interfere with the conduct of surveys pursuant to this law, or deface, destroy, remove or otherwise alter established survey monuments shall be penalized with a fine of not less than one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00), or imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not exceeding six (6) years, or both, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 15. *Approval of Forest Land Cadastral Surveys.* – Submission of survey plans shall be made to the unit in charge of surveys at the regional office of the DENR. Such submission shall be subject to the process of inspection, verification and approval of surveys, and shall be projected in the same projection map used for alienable and disposable lands.

SEC. 16. *Integration Into Existing Cadastral System.* – Approved surveys and all other accompanying information on forest lands shall be integrated into the existing cadastral system. It shall include maps and other information necessary to identify the parcel as well as the tenure or interest associated with it.

SEC. 17. *Access To Forest Land Information.* – The DENR shall share and provide access to all available forest land information to other government agencies, local government units, and the transacting public for the efficient management and sustainable utilization of forest lands and the resources therein. Cadastral information may also be shared to banks and other non-bank financial institutions for the purpose of providing access to credit and other financial services and facilities subject to existing data privacy rules and regulations.

SEC. 18. *Integrity of Forest Land Information.* – The DENR shall ensure the integrity of forest land information through continuous updating of data, system maintenance, and cleansing of forest land records of inconsistencies, duplications, errors and fraud. Budget shall be allocated annually for this purpose.

SEC. 19. *Security of Forest Land Information.* – At all DENR sites, there will be appropriate security arrangements on access to the network and database, anti-virus protection, on-site and off-site backup of databases, and other related system administration arrangements. All systems will include an audit trail of persons who made changes to the key data in the database.

SEC. 20. *Funding.* – Initial funds shall be sourced from savings of the DENR for the current year and thereafter shall be included yearly in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 21. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DENR shall promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act within 120 days from approval hereof.

SEC. 22. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive order, executive issuances or letters of instruction, rules and regulations or any part thereof inconsistent to the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 23. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason or reasons, any part or parts of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid by any competent court, other parts of this Act not so declared shall continue to be in full force and effect.

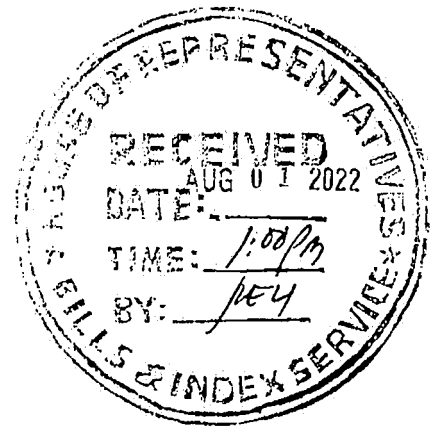
SEC. 24. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general education.

Approved,

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2841



Introduced by **Representative Dante S. Garcia**

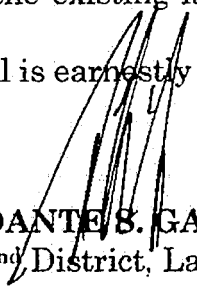
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure, entitled "An Act Reclassifying Certain Public Lands Within The Strip Of Land Five (5) Kilometers From Either Side Of The Aspiras Highway, From The Municipality Of Agoo, Province Of La Union To The Municipality Of Tuba, Province Of Benguet Covered By Proclamation No. 1754 As Alienable And Disposable Lands" has been in the 18th Congress, and was duly processed by the Committee on Natural Resources. It was approved by the House on 25 March 2021, and was transmitted to and received by the Senate on 12 April 2021. For lack of material time, the bill was not passed. Hence, this bill is being refiled.

Pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 1754, dated 22 June 1978, the area covering 30,811.81 hectares was reserved for forest and watershed purposes of which some 25,762.81 hectares were previously declared alienable and disposable land (A & D) and 5,049 hectares timberland per Land Classification No. 1392 approved on 1 August 1940. The said land area is under the jurisdiction of the Municipalities of Agoo, Tubao, Rosario, Pugo, Sto. Tomas, and Aringay.

In this case, prior to the issuance of Proclamation No. 1754, several portions affected by the same have already been issued land titles recognized under the law. As such, its continued use is primarily as residential and agricultural. The law therefor failed to consider and balance the different related concerns of the stakeholders such as food security, human settlements, environmental protection, indigenous communities, and other economic and commercial pursuits. Where there are conflicting land uses and practices, inappropriate land classification and confusion due to inconsistent laws and policies as well as continued negative environmental impact on land of human activities, the existing law needs to be revisited.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.


DANTE S. GARCIA
2nd District, La Union

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. 2841

Introduced by **Representative Dante S. Garcia**

AN ACT
RECLASSIFYING CERTAIN PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN THE STRIP
OF LAND FIVE (5) KILOMETERS FROM EITHER SIDE OF THE
ASPIRAS HIGHWAY, FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF AGOO,
PROVINCE OF LA UNION TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUBA,
PROVINCE OF BENGUET COVERED BY PROCLAMATION NO.
1754 AS ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE LANDS

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Reclassification of Certain Public Lands.*** - The existing
2 built-up and populated areas and the agricultural lands identified by the
3 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) within the strip of
4 land five (5) kilometers from either side of the Aspiras Highway from the
5 Municipality of Agoo, Province of La Union to the Municipality of Tuba, Province
6 of Benguet covered by Proclamation No. 1754, are hereby reclassified as alienable
7 and disposable lands. These pertain to the following areas:

8 a. Parcel 1 pertains to the area beginning at a point marked "1" on the
9 Map, being S65°43'23" W, 200.182 meters from PRS92 Control Monument "BGT-
10 3169" with geographic coordinates of 16°22'37.72" latitude and 12°34'7.05"
11 longitude located at Barangay Dontongan, Baguio City, Benguet:

12	thence	N27°13'8"W	212.175	meters to corner	2;
13	thence	N86°37'21"W	147.209	meters to corner	3;
14	thence	N63°3'44"W	194.575	meters to corner	4;
15	thence	S23°16'45"W	297.439	meters to corner	5;

1	thence	S38°21'45"W	232.12	meters to corner	6;
2	thence	S19°29'0"W	202.962	meters to corner	7;
3	thence	N50°8'35"W	137.769	meters to corner	8;
4	thence	N22°3'55"W	330.262	meters to corner	9;
5	thence	N87°12'36"W	568.409	meters to corner	10;
6	thence	N65°46'20"W	278.531	meters to corner	11;
7	thence	S89°45'11"W	368.301	meters to corner	12;
8	thence	S59°58'11"W	334.384	meters to corner	13;
9	thence	S4°12'19"W	310.038	meters to corner	14;
10	thence	S13°59'31"E	354.353	meters to corner	15;
11	thence	S34°38'40"W	328.458	meters to corner	16;
12	thence	S35°42'22"W	873.635	meters to corner	17;
13	thence	S29°41'27"E	208.325	meters to corner	18;
14	thence	S38°48'14"W	582.651	meters to corner	19;
15	thence	S36°1'38"W	215.922	meters to corner	20;
16	thence	S31°5'43"W	766.534	meters to corner	21;
17	thence	S58°15'56"W	244.173	meters to corner	22;
18	thence	S42°21'32"W	424.154	meters to corner	23;
19	thence	S20°9'25"E	215.072	meters to corner	24;
20	thence	S42°53'34"E	212.271	meters to corner	25;
21	thence	S49°29'19"E	33.618	meters to corner	26;
22	thence	S70°20'47"E	52.061	meters to corner	27;
23	thence	S60°56'43"E	72.11	meters to corner	28;
24	thence	S46°16'23"E	111.46	meters to corner	29;
25	thence	S22°37'12"E	91.052	meters to corner	30;
26	thence	S0°0'1"E	31.518	meters to corner	31;
27	thence	S20°46'20"E	108.618	meters to corner	32;
28	thence	S4°58'11"E	80.85	meters to corner	33;
29	thence	S5°42'38"E	70.389	meters to corner	34;
30	thence	S16°41'58"E	49.034	meters to corner	35;
31	thence	S72°21'0"E	604.231	meters to corner	36;
32	thence	S48°37'17"E	209.277	meters to corner	37;

1	thence	S38°39'35"E	550.632	meters to corner	38;
2	thence	S20°0'8"E	633.977	meters to corner	39;
3	thence	S22°52'35"E	329.943	meters to corner	40;
4	thence	S30°44'55"W	908.863	meters to corner	41;
5	thence	S51°51'40"W	1862.531	meters to corner	42;
6	thence	S57°27'57"W	4287.178	meters to corner	43;
7	thence	N10°58'23"W	931.942	meters to corner	44;
8	thence	N23°40'36"W	4407.618	meters to corner	45;
9	thence	N24°36'14"W	7139.389	meters to corner	46;
10	thence	S62°41'33"E	545.117	meters to corner	47;
11	thence	N24°34'41"E	2255.151	meters to corner	48;
12	thence	N37°54'43"E	765.277	meters to corner	49;
13	thence	N47°4'53"E	985.496	meters to corner	50;
14	thence	N59°33'59"E	917.568	meters to corner	51;
15	thence	N59°18'14"E	2017.642	meters to corner	52;
16	thence	N68°28'56"E	1598.12	meters to corner	53;
17	thence	N88°34'14"E	118.897	meters to corner	54;
18	thence	S14°41'24"E	66.374	meters to corner	55;
19	thence	S55°37'34"E	76.749	meters to corner	56;
20	thence	N89°8'8"E	111.95	meters to corner	57;
21	thence	S5°25'42"E	245.723	meters to corner	58;
22	thence	S64°56'22"E	161.977	meters to corner	59;
23	thence	S61°50'39"E	122.032	meters to corner	60;
24	thence	S72°11'29"E	118.253	meters to corner	61;
25	thence	S40°11'0"E	136.54	meters to corner	62;
26	thence	S20°30'31"E	341.844	meters to corner	63;
27	thence	N74°59'50"E	180.278	meters to corner	64;
28	thence	S48°3'29"E	166.265	meters to corner	65;
29	thence	N53°27'0"E	196.998	meters to corner	66;
30	thence	S38°35'56"E	123.064	meters to corner	67;
31	thence	S29°48'7"W	310.976	meters to corner	68;
32	thence	S19°12'43"E	239.353	meters to corner	69;

1	thence	S51°11'24"E	142.512	meters to corner	70;
2	thence	S1°49'15"E	332.207	meters to corner	71;
3	thence	S50°30'27"E	100.036	meters to corner	72;
4	thence	S11°18'53"W	192.412	meters to corner	73;
5	thence	S70°26'55"E	265.61	meters to corner	74;
6	thence	S26°45'46"E	133.356	meters to corner	75;
7	thence	S60°37'20"E	172.772	meters to corner	76;
8	thence	S11°37'21"W	120.864	meters to corner	77;
9	thence	S77°12'56"E	154.67	meters to corner	78;
10	thence	S8°46'27"E	225.247	meters to corner	79;
11	thence	S67°7'24"E	255.544	meters to corner	80;
12	thence	S3°48'6"W	124.197	meters to corner	81;
13	thence	S87°20'46"E	238.412	meters to corner	82;
14	thence	N64°0'59"E	162.926	meters to corner	83;
15	thence	S51°58'25"E	173.36	meters to corner	84;
16	thence	S80°19'11"E	224.074	meters to corner	85;
17	thence	S72°27'49"E	338.215	meters to corner	86;
18	thence	S30°43'15"E	186.777	meters to corner	87;
19	thence	S72°30'7"E	129.005	meters to corner	88;
20	thence	S53°7'48"E	100.343	meters to corner	89;
21	thence	S56°18'35"E	72.359	meters to corner	90;
22	thence	S10°18'18"E	224.375	meters to corner	91;
23	thence	S21°48'5"E	216.146	meters to corner	92;
24	thence	S36°52'11"E	100.343	meters to corner	93;
25	thence	S63°26'6"E	89.75	meters to corner	94;
26	thence	S45°0'0"E	141.907	meters to corner	95;
27	thence	S21°48'5"E	108.073	meters to corner	96;
28	thence	S21°48'5"E	108.073	meters to corner	97;
29	thence	S51°20'25"E	385.507	meters to corner	98;
30	thence	N90°0'0"E	200.687	meters to corner	99;
31	thence	N81°52'11"E	141.907	meters to corner	100;
32	thence	N39°48'20"E	156.741	meters to corner	101;

1	thence	N24°26'38"E	242.491	meters to corner	102;
2	thence	N45°0'0"E	113.526	meters to corner	103;
3	thence	N12°5'41"E	287.34	meters to corner	104;
4	thence	N14°2'11"W	82.745	meters to corner	105;
5	thence	N0°0'0"E	120.412	meters to corner	106;
6	thence	N33°41'24"W	289.434	meters to corner	107;
7	thence	N60°15'18"W	161.799	meters to corner	108;
8	thence	N74°3'16"W	146.102	meters to corner	109;
9	thence	N80°32'16"W	122.073	meters to corner	110;
10	thence	S84°48'20"W	221.666	meters to corner	111;
11	thence	N83°39'35"W	181.73	meters to corner	112;
12	thence	N71°33'54"W	126.925	meters to corner	113;
13	thence	N59°2'11"W	117.02	meters to corner	114;
14	thence	N0°0'0"E	120.412	meters to corner	115;
15	thence	N18°26'6"E	63.463	meters to corner	116;
16	thence	N0°0'0"E	60.206	meters to corner	117;
17	thence	N51°20'25"W	128.502	meters to corner	118;
18	thence	N53°7'49"W	100.343	meters to corner	119;
19	thence	N0°0'0"E	140.481	meters to corner	120;
20	thence	N45°0'0"E	113.526	meters to corner	121;
21	thence	N45°0'0"E	113.526	meters to corner	122;
22	thence	N63°26'6"E	134.625	meters to corner	123;
23	thence	N82°52'30"E	161.799	meters to corner	124;
24	thence	N53°0'25"E	154.409	meters to corner	125;
25	thence	S55°33'13"E	129.689	meters to corner	126;
26	thence	N15°37'58"E	188.091	meters to corner	127;
27	thence	N14°2'10"E	82.745	meters to corner	128;
28	thence	N18°26'6"W	126.925	meters to corner	129;
29	thence	N84°17'22"W	201.688	meters to corner	130;
30	thence	N73°18'3"W	209.523	meters to corner	131;
31	thence	N76°0'10"W	198.906	meters to corner	132;
32	thence	S77°39'9"W	131.132	meters to corner	133;

1	thence	S80°32'16"W	122.073	meters to corner	134;
2	thence	N74°3'16"W	146.102	meters to corner	135;
3	thence	N15°56'43"W	146.102	meters to corner	136;
4	thence	N0°0'0"E	140.481	meters to corner	137;
5	thence	N34°20'17"E	129.611	meters to corner	138;
6	thence	N53°42'52"E	158.268	meters to corner	139;
7	thence	N75°57'49"E	165.491	meters to corner	140;
8	thence	N56°18'36"E	144.717	meters to corner	141;
9	thence	N29°44'42"E	161.799	meters to corner	142;
10	thence	N0°0'0"E	140.481	meters to corner	143;
11	thence	N26°33'54"W	134.625	meters to corner	144;
12	thence	N26°33'54"W	134.625	meters to corner	145;
13	thence	N0°0'0"E	200.687	meters to corner	146;
14	thence	N38°39'35"E	128.502	meters to corner	147;
15	thence	N30°57'49"E	117.02	meters to corner	148;
16	thence	N36°52'11"E	100.343	meters to corner	149;
17	thence	N24°37'33"E	59.355	meters to corner	150;
18	thence	S19°22'14"E	2514.319	meters to corner	151;
19	thence	S19°1'15"E	1842.396	meters to corner	152;
20	thence	S19°22'33"E	1945.563	meters to corner	1,

21 containing an area of eleven thousand four hundred one 34/100 (11,401.34)
22 hectares, more or less.

23 b. Parcel 2 pertains to the area within the Palispis Protected Landscape
24 beginning at a point marked "1" on the Map, being S18°46'42"W, 322.87 meters
25 from PRS92 Control Monument "BGT-3169" with geographic coordinates of
26 16°22'37.72" latitude and 12°34'7.05" longitude located at Barangay Dontongan,
27 Baguio City, Benguet:

28	thence	S19°22'33"E	269.622	meters to corner	2;
29	thence	S78°25'31"E	2951.712	meters to corner	3;
30	thence	S78°47'39"E	1006.663	meters to corner	4;
31	thence	S79°7'46"E	472.227	meters to corner	5;
32	thence	S78°37'19"E	114.919	meters to corner	6;

1	thence	S20°53'9"E	406.147	meters to corner	7;
2	thence	S56°11'23"W	606.528	meters to corner	8;
3	thence	S42°59'13"W	1117.603	meters to corner	9;
4	thence	N41°10'53"W	953.612	meters to corner	10;
5	thence	N10°39'35"E	518.325	meters to corner	11;
6	thence	N52°33'4"W	458.059	meters to corner	12;
7	thence	N9°29'44"W	381.423	meters to corner	13;
8	thence	N80°58'20"W	1014.302	meters to corner	14;
9	thence	S86°41'4"W	98.097	meters to corner	15;
10	thence	S83°6'46"W	454.808	meters to corner	16;
11	thence	S70°21'8"W	255.568	meters to corner	17;
12	thence	S82°26'23"W	221.28	meters to corner	18;
13	thence	N88°58'4"W	119.091	meters to corner	19;
14	thence	N71°7'52"W	229.617	meters to corner	20;
15	thence	N30°11'30"W	350.019	meters to corner	21;
16	thence	N7°29'34"E	447.623	meters to corner	1;

17 containing an area of two hundred eighty-nine .06/100 (289.06) hectares, more or
18 less.

19 **SEC. 2. Status of National Parks, Mineral Lands and Other Public**
20 **Reservations.** – The land classification of proclaimed national parks, protected
21 areas, mineral lands, the status of civil reservations, military reservations, and
22 other reservations for public and quasi-public uses within the affected area shall
23 not be affected by this Act.

24 **SEC. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90)
25 days from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR, in consultation with the Provincial
26 Governments of La Union and Benguet and the affected municipalities, shall issue
27 the corresponding implementing rules and regulations (IRR) for the effective
28 implementation of this Act.

29 **SEC. 4. Separability Clause.** – If any section or provision of this Act is
30 held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions not affected thereby
31 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

1 **SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
2 regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with this act are
3 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

4 **SEC. 6. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

6 *Approved,*