



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Bureau Directors**
Forest Management Bureau
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
Land Management Bureau
Ecosystem Research Development Bureau

The Directors
Legal Affairs Service
Policy and Planning Service
Climate Change Service

The Regional Executive Directors
Regions III, VII, CARAGA

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **INVITATION FROM THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

DATE : 18 November 2022

The Committee on Natural Resources will have a Full Face-to-Face meeting on **November 29, 2022 (Tuesday), at 9:30 AM** at Belmonte Hall, South Wing Annex, House of Representatives for the deliberation of the following bills:

A. Proposed Forest Land Cadastral Act

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;
2. House Bill No. 4196, entitled "An Act To Include Forest Lands In The Existing National Cadastral System, Providing For Its Procedures And For Other Purposes", authored by Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez; and
3. House Bill No. 5453, entitled "An Act To Establish The Forest Cadastre, Providing For Its Procedures And For Other Purposes" by Rep. Ernesto M. Dionisio Jr.

B. Local Land Reclassification Measures

1. House Bill No. 95, entitled "An Act Declaring As Agricultural Land Certain Parcels Of Land Of The Public Domain Situated Within The City Of Surigao, Province Of Surigao Del Norte", authored by Rep. Robert Ace S. Barbers;

2. House Bill No. 435, entitled “An Act To Reclassify A Developed Portion Of Forest Land Under Concession With PICOP, Located In The City Of Bislig And The Municipalities Of Hinatuan, Lingig, And Tagbina, Province Of Surigao Del Sur Into Alienable And Disposable Land Of The Public Domain For The Purpose Of Distributing The Same To Bona Fide And Long Term Farmers/Occupants Thereof, And For Other Purposes”, authored by Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel;
3. House Bill No. 537, entitled “An Act Converting A Portion Of The Land, Embraced Under Proclamation No. 508 And Proclamation No. 532 As Alienable And Disposable To The Actual Bona Fide Occupants Thereof”, authored by Rep. Geraldine B. Roman;
4. House Bill No. 607, entitled “An Act Declaring A Parcel Of Land Of The Public Domain Located In The Island Of Pamilacan, Municipality Of Baclayon, Province Of Bohol An Agricultural Land Open To Disposition For Agricultural, Residential, Commercial, Industrial Or Other Productive Purposes”, authored by Rep. Edgar M. Chatto; and
5. House Bill No. 608, entitled: “An Act Reclassifying Certain Parcels Of Land Located At The Islands Of Cabilao And Sandingan In The Municipality Of Loon, Province Of Bohol, Into Alienable And Disposable Lands And For Other Purposes”, authored by Rep. Edgar M. Chatto.

For the Forest Cadastre Bills, the Office has received comments only for HBN 1162 from the Forest Management Bureau and Land Management Bureau. For the Land Reclassification Bills, we have not yet received the comments from Biodiversity Management Bureau.

In this regard, we are **requesting additional comments on the bills above on or before November 22, 2022, 5 PM** via email at denrlegislative@yahoo.com. Also, your or your representative’s attendance at the mentioned meeting is requested as the agenda will deliberate on bills that are of significance to your mandates.

Further, to be prepared for the upcoming Committee Meeting, we are inviting you or your representative for a consultative meeting to discuss the aforementioned bills on **November 28, 2022, at 10:00 AM at the Office of the Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and Foreign Assisted, and Special Projects, 2nd Floor Conference Room.**

Attached herewith are the invitation letter and copies of the bills for your reference.

Your attendance is highly encouraged.


ROMIROSE B. PADIN

cc: Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources, and Legislative Affairs
Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs
Assistant Secretary for Administration and Legislative Affairs



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on Natural Resources

✉ Committee Affairs Department, 3/F Speaker Ramon V. Mitra Building, Batasan Complex, Quezon City, Philippines
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committee.naturalresources@house.gov.ph, naturalresources.hrep@gmail.com

17 November 2022

ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES, CESO I

Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DENR Bldg. Visayas Avenue, Diliman,
Quezon City

Dear Undersecretary Leones:

The Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives will be holding a face-to-face Committee Meeting on **29 November 2022 (Tuesday), 9:30 in the morning**, at **Belmonte Hall, South Wing Annex, House of Representatives**.

In light of this, we would like to invite you or your authorized representative to attend the said meeting and shed light on the measures to be deliberated on. In addition, we would like to seek your comments on the following measures:

A. Proposed Forest Land Cadastral Act

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**;
2. **House Bill No. 4196**, entitled "*An Act To Include Forest Lands In The Existing National Cadastral System, Providing For Its Procedures And For Other Purposes*", authored by **Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez**; and
3. **House Bill No. 5453**, entitled "*An Act To Establish The Forest Cadastre, Providing For Its Procedures And For Other Purposes*" by **Rep. Ernesto M. Dionisio Jr.**

B. Local Land Reclassification Measures

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2. **House Bill No. 435**, entitled "*An Act To Reclassify A Developed Portion Of Forest Land Under Concession With PICOP, Located In The City Of Bislig And The Municipalities Of Hinatuan, Lingig, And Tagbina, Province Of Surigao Del Sur Into Alienable And Disposable Land Of The Public Domain For The Purpose Of Distributing The Same To Bona Fide And Long Term Farmers/Occupants Thereof, And For Other Purposes*", authored by **Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel**;

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4. **House Bill No. 607**, entitled "*An Act Declaring A Parcel Of Land Of The Public Domain Located In The Island Of Pamilacan, Municipality Of Baclayon, Province Of Bohol An Agricultural Land Open To Disposition For Agricultural, Residential, Commercial, Industrial Or Other Productive Purposes*", authored by **Rep. Edgar M. Chatto**; and
5. **House Bill No. 608**, entitled: "*An Act Reclassifying Certain Parcels Of Land Located At The Islands Of Cabilao And Sandingan In The Municipality Of Loon, Province Of Bohol, Into Alienable And Disposable Lands And For Other Purposes*", authored by **Rep. Edgar M. Chatto**.

We would like to request the submission of your position paper on the aforementioned House Bills, or a draft thereof, on or before **24 November 2022 (Thursday)**, in order to give the Committee Members enough time to read through the materials. For ease of reference, kindly indicate your comments **per House Bill** in the said position paper.

For confirmation of attendance or further inquiries, the Committee may be reached at committee.naturalresources@house.gov.ph.

We are looking forward to having a fruitful discussion with you on the said measures. Thank you very much!

Very truly yours,



HON. ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA JR.
Chairperson
Committee on Natural Resources

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
November 29, 2022 (Tuesday) 9:30 AM
at Belmonte Hall, South Wing Annex

REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING
(Face-to-Face Meeting)

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call/Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
- II. Acknowledgment of Members and Resource Persons**
- III. Opening Remarks of the Chairperson**
- IV. Initial Consideration of the Following Measures:**
 - A. Proposed Forest Land Cadastral Act**
 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**;
 2. **House Bill No. 4196**, entitled "*An Act To Include Forest Lands In The Existing National Cadastral System, Providing For Its Procedures And For Other Purposes*", authored by **Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez**; and
 3. **House Bill No. 5453**, entitled "*An Act To Establish The Forest Cadastre, Providing For Its Procedures And For Other Purposes*" by **Rep. Ernesto M. Dionisio Jr.**
 - B. Local Land Reclassification Measures**
 1. **House Bill No. 95**, entitled "*An Act Declaring As Agricultural Land Certain Parcels Of Land Of The Public Domain Situated Within The City Of Surigao, Province Of Surigao Del Norte*", authored by **Rep. Robert Ace S. Barbers**;
 2. **House Bill No. 435**, entitled "*An Act To Reclassify A Developed Portion Of Forest Land Under Concession With PICOP, Located In The City Of Bislig And The Municipalities Of Hinatuan, Lingig, And Tagbina, Province Of Surigao Del Sur Into Alienable And Disposable Land Of The Public Domain For The Purpose Of Distributing The Same To Bona Fide And*

Long Term Farmers/Occupants Thereof, And For Other Purposes", authored by **Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel**;

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5. **House Bill No. 608**, entitled: *"An Act Reclassifying Certain Parcels Of Land Located At The Islands Of Cabilao And Sandingan In The Municipality Of Loon, Province Of Bohol, Into Alienable And Disposable Lands And For Other Purposes"*, authored by **Rep. Edgar M. Chatto**;

Proposed Resource Persons

1. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
2. Forest Management Bureau (FMB)
3. Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB)
4. National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA)
5. Land Management Bureau (LMB)
6. Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB)
7. National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)
8. DENR CARAGA, III, and VII
9. Concerned LGUs

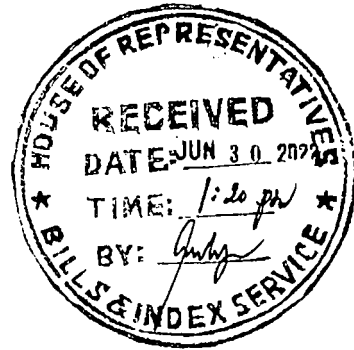
V. Other Matters

VI. Adjournment

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 95



Introduced by **Hon. Robert Ace S. Barbers**

**AN ACT DECLARING AS AGRICULTURAL LAND CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND OF
THE PUBLIC DOMAIN SITUATED WITHIN THE CITY OF SURIGAO, PROVINCE OF
SURIGAO DEL NORTE**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill is a re-filed version of a measure that was tediously deliberated upon and approved during previous Congresses.

The measure seeks to declare as agricultural land three (3) parcels of land consisting of about six hundred forty-nine and 3466/10,000 (649.3466) hectares of land of the public domain located in Surigao City, Province of Surigao del Norte.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall alienate the said parcels of land pursuant to the provisions of Commonwealth Act 141 or the Public Land Act as amended; republic Act No. 730, Sale Without Public Auction of Public Lands to Qualified Applicants under Certain Conditions; and other public land laws. Provided, that Twenty (20) meter strips of land on both sides along rivers and creeks, for stream bank protection, shall be retained as timberland and shall be planted with trees by the Department of Natural Resources and by the City Government of Surigao.

The areas are currently classified as timberland, but actual land use is residential, industrial, and commercial by thousands of landless residents of Surigao City. Proof that the residents have been in the area for decades is the presence of permanent houses and well-paved roads provided by the local government in response to the clamor for basic services.

Thru this legislation, security of tenure by way of land patents, will be provided to the actual residents.

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

HON. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS
Representative
2nd District, Surigao del Norte

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 95

Introduced by **Hon. Robert Ace S. Barbers**

**AN ACT DECLARING AS AGRICULTURAL LAND CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND OF
THE PUBLIC DOMAIN SITUATED WITHIN THE CITY OF SURIGAO, PROVINCE OF
SURIGAO DEL NORTE**

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

SECTION 1. Certain parcels of land of the public domain located within the territory of Surigao City, Province of Surigao del Norte, consisting of about six hundred forty-nine and 3466/10,000 (649.3466) hectares, under cadastral survey Cad. 234, portions of Block B and Block C classified as timberland per project No. 14 of L.C. Map No. 689, are hereby declared agricultural lands. The said parcels of land are more particularly identified and described as follows, to wit:

BLOCK-1, The parcel land situated in Barangays Taft, Canlanipa and Cagniog, all of Surigao City, Province of Surigao del Norte.

Bounded on the Northeast

along line 1-2	by lot No. 490,
along line 2-3	by lot No. 491,
along line 3-4	by lot No. 497 and lot No. 3194,
along line 4-5	by lot No. 510,
along line 5-6	by lot No. 511 and lot No. 512,
along line 6-7	by lot No. 482 and lot No. 514,
along line 7-8	by lot Nos. 515, 516, 517 and 518,
along line 8-9	by lot Nos. 519, lot No. 520 and P. Reyes St.,
along line 9-10	by lot Nos. 704, lot No. 1014, and lot No.

1015,

along line 10-11	by lot No. 628 and lot No. 740,
along line 11-12	by Bilang-Bilang Road, Borromeo St. Ext.

on the East

along line 12-13-14-	
15-16-17-	
18-19-20-	
21-22-23-	
24-25-26-	
27-28-29-30,	by the sea of Hinatuan Passage,

along line 31-32 by lot No. 2745,
 on the Southeast
 along line 31-32 by lot No. 2746,
 along line 32-33 by lot No. 2740,
 on the South
 along line 33-34 by lot No. 802,
 along line 34-35 by lot No. 2742, lot No. 2743 and lot No.
 2744,
 along line 35-36-37 by lot No. 2743 and lot No. 7129,
 along line 37-38 by lot No. 736 and lot No. 737,
 along line 38-39 -40-41 by lot No. 738, lot No. 739 and lot No. 742,
 along line 41-42-43-44 by lot No. 743, lot No. 744, lot No. 745 and
 lot No. 749,
 along line 44-45 by lot No. 729, lot No. 750 and lot No. 751,

 along line 45-46 by lot No. 2705 and lot No. 728,
 along line 46-47 by lot No. 726,
 along line 47-48 by lot No. 725,
 on the West
 along line 48-49 by lot No. 753
 along lines 49-50-51-
 52-53-54-
 55-56-57-
 58-59-60-
 61-62-63-
 64-65-66 by lot No. 796,
 along lines 66-67-68-69 by lot No. 7089,
 along lines 69, 70-71-
 72-73-74 by lot No. 488, and
 on Northwest
 along lines 74-74-76-
 77-78-79-
 80-1 by lot No. 310, all of Cad. 234, Surigao
 Cadastre.

Beginning at the point marked "1" on the plan being S.37°40'15"E., 571.47 m. from BLLM No. CAD. 234, Surigao Cadastre, thence:

S. 61° 56' E.,	70.10 m. to point 2;
S. 39° 41' E.,	84.63 m. to point 3;
S. 32° 56' E.,	229.26 m. to point 4;
S. 89° 05' E.,	54.68 m. to point 5;
S. 38° 27' E.,	118.58 m. to point 6;
S. 87° 11' E.,	35.03 m. to point 7;
S. 35° 55' E.,	51.89 m. to point 8;
S. 00° 13' E.,	68.41 m. to point 9;

S. 4° 35' W.,	52.35 m. to point 10;
S. 28° 43' W.,	102.53 m. to point 11;
S. 53° 28' W.,	180.51 m. to point 12;
S. 22° 31' W.,	190.00 m. to point 13;
S. 66° 30' W.,	96.36 m. to point 14;
N. 22° 31' E.,	190.00 m. to point 15;
S. 00° 56' E.,	329.49 m. to point 16;
S. 55° 29' E.,	140.39 m. to point 17;
S. 82° 17' E.,	193.75 m. to point 18;
S. 79° 46' E.,	120.10 m. to point 19;
S. 06° 12' E.,	109.32 m. to point 20;
S. 21° 06' W.,	150.05 m. to point 21;
S. 33° 19' W.,	167.52 m. to point 22;
S. 40° 32' E.,	213.14 m. to point 23;
N. 58° 45' E.,	84.02 m. to point 24;
S. 87° 17' E.,	132.59 m. to point 25;
S. 82° 28' E.,	103.25 m. to point 26;
S. 69° 45' E.,	64.91 m. to point 27;
S. 39° 28' E.,	202.97 m. to point 28;
S. 21° 02' W.,	251.35 m. to point 29;
S. 47° 14' E.,	380.33 m. to point 30;
S. 69° 51' E.,	88.12 m. to point 31;
S. 52° 19' W.,	228.46 m. to point 32;
S. 63° 05' W.,	130.32 m. to point 33;
N. 55° 37' W.,	220.14 m. to point 34;
N. 48° 34' E.,	195.38 m. to point 35;
N. 20° 29' W.,	172.84 m. to point 36;
N. 41° 45' W.,	312.93 m. to point 37;
N. 06° 17' E.,	106.27 m. to point 38;
N. 33° 17' E.,	86.40 m. to point 39;
N. 20° 34' W.,	50.21 m. to point 40;
N. 87° 17' E.,	132.03 m. to point 41;
S. 59° 49' W.,	91.94 m. to point 42;
S. 56° 29' W.,	152.19 m. to point 43;
S. 28° 39' W.,	118.40 m. to point 44;
N. 87° 15' W.,	236.19 m. to point 45;
S. 58° 16' W.,	167.14 m. to point 46;
N. 69° 08' W.,	141.07 m. to point 47;
N. 74° 36' W.,	124.04 m. to point 48;
N. 5° 18' E.,	309.54 m. to point 49;
S. 60° 42' E.,	314.66 m. to point 50;
N. 78° 32' E.,	127.87 m. to point 51;
N. 43° 08' E.,	237.48 m. to point 52;
N. 2° 12' W.,	39.03 m. to point 53;
S. 82° 00' W.,	209.64 m. to point 54;
N. 31° 22' W.,	187.86 m. to point 55;
N. 40° 34' E.,	129.93 m. to point 56;

N.45° 02'W.,	99.21 m. to point 57;
N.21° 39'W.,	105.98 m. to point 58;
N.81° 29'W.,	176.14 m. to point 59;
N.24° 14'W.,	99.14 m. to point 60;
N. 45° 20'E.,	117.52 m. to point 61;
N.09° 40'W.,	101.31 m. to point 62;
N.75° 43'W.,	139.82 m. to point 63;
S.89° 06'W.,	169.21 m. to point 64;
S.75° 13'W.,	124.63 m. to point 65;
S.82° 46'W.,	191.32 m. to point 66;
N.42° 59'W.,	59.14 m. to point 67;
N.06° 06'W.,	94.98 m. to point 68;
N.61° 43'E.,	443.09 m. to point 69;
N.36° 41'E.,	171.91 m. to point 70;
N.61° 19'E.,	52.82 m. to point 71;
N.00° 21'E.,	192.26 m. to point 72;
N.83° 21'W.,	164.36 m. to point 73;
S.39° 41'W.,	221.18 m. to point 74;
N.20° 35'E.,	146.73 m. to point 75;
N.37° 26'E.,	119.76 m. to point 76;
N.83° 34'E.,	41.06 m. to point 77;
N.49° 13'E.,	46.08 m. to point 78;
N.34° 20'E.,	69.16 m. to point 79;
N.61° 26'E.,	125.47 m. to point 80;
N.26° 03'E.,	24.66 m. to point of

beginning, containing an area of One hundred two and 5068/10,000 (102.5068) hectares, more or less.

Block-II. The parcel of land situated in barangays San Juan and Washington, all of

of
Surigao City, Province of Surigao del Norte:
Bounded on the North

along lines	26-27-1	by lot No. 669,
along line	1-2	by lot No. 262 and Surigao River,
along line	2-3	by Vasques Street,
along line	3-4	by Lot No. 454, lot No.478 and lot No. 484
along lines	4-5-6-7	by lot No.476 and lot No. 478,
along line	7-8	by lot No. 476 and lot No. 478,
along lines	8-9-10	by Rizal St. and lot No. 474,
along lines	10-11-12-13-14	by Surigao River
along lines	14-15-16-17-18-19	by lot No. 667,
along lines	19-20-21-22-23-24	by lot No. 666,
along lines	24-25-26	by lot No.664,all of CAD.234, Surigao Cadastre.

Beginning at a point marked "1" on the plan being S.80°40'W.,287.89 m from BLLM No.1 CAD.234, Surigao Cadastre, thence:

S.38° 18' E., 192.09 m.to point 2;

S.11° 04'W.,	275.21 m. to point 3;
S.04° 11'E.,	315.65 m. to point 4;
S.01° 33'W.,	55.46 m. to point 5;
S.66° 10'W.,	61.00 m. to point 6;
N.74° 24'W.,	86.28 m. to point 7;
S.62°22'W.,	149.16 m. to point 8;
S.61° 07'W.,	342.13 m. to point 9;
N.78° 04'W.,	288.25 m. to point 10;
N.16° 56'E.,	225.64 m. to point 11;
N.87° 00'E.,	39.99 m. to point 12;
N.38° 00'E.,	40.00 m. to point 13;
N.11° 43'E.,	40.98 m. to point 14;
N.19° 14'W.,	79.06 m. to point 15;
N.20° 00'W.,	170.00 m. to point 16;
N.21° 00'W.,	30.00 m. to point 17;
N.46° 20'W.,	66.17 m. to point 18;
N.29° 24'W.,	104.01 m. to point 19;
N.40° 24'W.,	111.84 m. to point 20;
S.54° 32'W.,	60.25 m. to point 21;
N.35° 03'W.,	142.65 m to point 22;
N.69° 29'W.,	47.00 m. to point 23;
N.71° 50'E.,	93.39 m. to point 24;
N.38° 55'E.,	202.47 m. to point 25;
N.22° 39'E.,	48.95 m. to point 26;
S. 73° 06'E.,	773.37 m. to point 27;
S. 61° 53'E.,	105.40 m to

point of beginning an area of Eighty-two and
1575/10,000 (82.1575) hectares, more or less.

Block-III, The parcel of land situated in Barangays San Juan, Sabang, and Rizal, City

of Surigao, Province of Surigao Del Norte,
Bounded on the North

along lines 61-62-63	by the sea of Surigao Strait,
along lines 63-64-65-66-67- 68-69-70-71-72- 73-74-75-76-77-78	by Banahaw River,
along line 78-79	by lot No. 1208,
along line 79-80	by lot No.1209,lot No.1210

and

	lot No. 1211
along lines 80-81-82	by lot No. 7218,
along lines 82-1-2-3-4	by lot No.631,lot No. 632,and lot No. 636,
along line 4-5	by Surigao River,
along lines 5-6-7-8-9	by lot No. 656 and lot No. 658,
along lines 9-10-11	by lot No. 661 and 663,

on the East

along lines 11-12-13-14-15	by a creek,
along lines 15-16-17-18-19	by lot No. 666,

along lines 19-20-21-22 on the South	by lot No.630 and lot No. 653,
along lines 22-23-24-25 26-27-28	by lot No. 653,
along line 28-29	by Surigao River and lot No. 630,
along line 29-30	by lot No. 630 and lot No. 640,
along lines 30-31-32	by lot No. 642,lot No. 647 and lot No. 646,
along lines 32-33-34-35	by lot No. 645,lot No. 1439, lot No. 1432 and lot No. 1444,
along lines 35-36-37	by lot No. 1432,
along line 37-38	by lot No. 1430, lot No. 1475, lot No. 1476,lot No.156 and lot No. 3073,
along line 38-39	by lot No. 1429 and lot No.1476,
along lines 39-40-41	by lot No. 1425 and lot No. 1426,
along lines 41-42-43	by lot No. 1420,
along lines 43-44-45	by lot No. 1421 and lot No. 1412
along lines 45-46-47	by lot No. 1411 and lot No. 1408,
along lines 47-48-49-50	by lot No. 1409 and lot No. 1403
on the West	
along lines 50-51-52-53	by lot No. 1226
along lines 53-54-55	by lot No. 1203
along line 55-56	by lot No. 1202 and lot No. 1204
along lines 56-57-58	by lot No. 1206 and lot No. 1177
along lines 58-59-60-61	by lot No. 1176 and lot No. 1175,
	all of CAD.234, Surigao

Cadastre

Beginning at a point marked "1" on the plan being N.74°28'26"W., 2862.67
m.

from BLLM No.70, CAD 234, Surigao Cadastre, thence:

S.58° 58'E.,	346.07 m. to point 2;
S.71° 32'E.,	224.89 m. to point 3;
S.25° 19'E.,	162.20 m. to point 4;
S.43° 45'E.,	136.47 m. to point 5;
S.59° 31'E.,	197.34 m. to point 6;
S.88° 56'E.,	182.32 m. to point 7;
N.53° 20'E.,	220.63 m. to point 8;
N.60° 12'E.,	164.24 m. to point 9;

S.60° 21'E.,	204.31 m. to point 10;
S.51° 09'E.,	237.65 m. to point 11;
S.25° 04'E.,	83.65 m. to point 12;
S.30° 43'W.,	121.81 m. to point 13;
N.52° 07'W.,	37.36 m. to point 14;
S.71° 50'W.,	93.39 m. to point 15;
N.28° 29'W.,	96.59 m. to point 16;
N.63° 17'W.,	185.29 m. to point 17;
N.75° 20'W.,	201.01 m. to point 18;
N.20° 05'W.,	142.84 m. to point 19;
S.01° 56'W.,	259.46 m. to point 20;
S.07° 29'W.,	275.52 m. to point 21;
S.02° 52'E.,	221.22 m. to point 22;
N.54° 54'W.,	165.19 m. to point 23;
N.66° 51'W.,	152.48 m. to point 24;
S.26° 10'W.,	128.39 m. to point 25;
S.37° 27'W.,	124.69 m. to point 26;
N.89° 00'W.,	114.56 m. to point 27;
N.44° 54'W.,	142.54 m. to point 28;
N.77° 09'W.,	153.25 m. to point 29;
S.14° 13'W.,	177.42 m. to point 30;
S.39° 48'W.,	120.49 m. to point 31;
S.05° 03'E.,	169.76 m. to point 32;
S.20° 07'W.,	160.43 m. to point 33;
S.19° 55'E.,	132.70 m. to point 34;
S.47° 04'W.,	188.35 m. to point 35;
N.51° 00'W.,	225.31 m. to point 36;
N.07° 13'W.,	201.00 m. to point 37;
N.76° 38'W.,	261.84 m. to point 38;
N.67° 19'W.,	210.13 m. to point 39;
N.33° 56'W.,	169.98 m. to point 40;
N.48° 25'W.,	124.83 m. to point 41;
N.26° 28'E.,	152.70 m. to point 42;
N.26° 53'W.,	187.36 m. to point 43;
S.44° 55'W.,	309.85 m. to point 44;
N.13° 49'W.,	176.03 m. to point 45;
S.69° 29'W.,	132.78 m. to point 46;
S.57° 11'W.,	223.25 m. to point 47;
N.34° 50'W.,	159.41 m. to point 48;
N.11° 28'W.,	189.16 m. to point 49;
S.78° 13'W.,	257.70 m. to point 50;
N.49° 43'W.,	382.27 m. to point 51;
N.26° 40'W.,	242.65 m. to point 52;
N.08° 14'E.,	270.79 m. to point 53;
N.35° 21'E.,	197.63 m. to point 54;
N.52° 24'E.,	488.35 m. to point 55;
N.79° 45'E.,	135.57 m. to point 56;
N. 49° 10' E.,	174.39 m. to point 57;
N. 35° 23' E.,	308.65 m. to point 58;
N. 42° 24' E.,	79.50 m to point 59;

N. 22° 53' E.,	98.31 m. to point 60;
N. 01° 38' E.,	85.37 m. to point 61;
S. 66° 26' E.,	93.59 m. to point 62;
S. 20° 38' E.,	242.80 m. to point 63;
S. 35° 43' W.,	94.66 m. to point 64;
S. 41° 26' W.,	341.48 m. to point 65;
S. 13° 46' W.,	100.90 m. to point 66;
S. 22° 18' W.,	168.62 m. to point 67;
S. 44° 40' W.,	239.01 m. to point 68;
S. 24° 52' E.,	180.75 m. to point 69;
S. 00° 56' W.,	122.02 m. to point 70;
S. 21° 59' W.,	112.16 m. to point 71;
N. 83° 03' E.,	82.61 m. to point 72;
S. 72° 07' E.,	65.15 m. to point 73;
N. 06° 23' E.,	251.56 m. to point 74;
N. 27° 24' W.,	121.66 m. to point 75;
N. 39° 38' E.,	166.19 m. to point 76;
N. 22° 28' E.,	287.85 m. to point 77;
N. 35° 03' E.,	333.50 m. to point 78;
N. 71° 06' E.,	132.47 m. to point 79;
S. 67° 46' E.,	166.82 m. to point 80;
S. 66° 04' E.,	242.94 m. to point 81;
S. 74° 48' E.,	252.90 m. to point 82;
S. 65° 23' E.,	224.85 m. to the point

of beginning, containing an area of Four hundred sixty-four and 6823/10,000 (464.6823) hectares, more or less

SEC. 2. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall alienate the said parcels of land in accordance with the provisions of the Commonwealth Act No. 141 or the Public Land Act, as amended; Republic Act No. 730, Sale Without Public Auction of Public Lands to Qualified Applicants under Certain Conditions; and other public land laws; Provided, That Twenty-meter strip of land on both sides along rivers and creeks, for stream bank protection, shall be retained as timberland and shall be planted with trees by the DENR and the City Government of Surigao.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and other issuances, or any part thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 435



Introduced by REP. JOHNNY T. PIMENTEL

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to convert into alienable and disposable land that portion within the former concessional area of Paper Industry Corporation of the Philippines (PICOP Resources, Inc.), in the City of Bislig and in the Municipalities of Hinatuan, Lingig, and Tagbina, Province of Surigao del Sur, actually tilled and occupied by farmer-settlers, in preparation of its eventual distribution to the bona fide and long-term farmers/ occupants.

The subject land is classified as forest land. However, farmers have gradually settled on the land, planting vegetables, fruit trees, bananas, root crops and raising livestock. These farmers have developed certain areas of the forest land into an agricultural land. It is high time for these areas to be formally classified into alienable and disposable agricultural land and its tenant-farmers be recognized as legitimate owners. It is about time to allow them the gift of ownership over lands that they have nurtured for so long.

Furthermore, our present constitution recognizes the rights of farmers, who are landless, to own the lands that they plough pursuant to Section 4, Article XIII of the same.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. JOHNNY T. PIMENTEL

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

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5 NINETEENTH CONGRESS
6 First Regular Session

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8 HOUSE BILL NO. 435
9

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11
12 Introduced by REP. JOHNNY T. PIMENTEL

13
14 AN ACT

15 TO RECLASSIFY A DEVELOPED PORTION OF FOREST LAND UNDER CONCESSION
16 WITH PICOP, LOCATED IN THE CITY OF BISLIG AND THE MUNICIPALITIES OF
17 HINATUAN, LINGIG, AND TAGBINA, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR. INTO
18 ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN FOR THE PURPOSE
19 OF DISTRIBUTING THE SAME TO BONA FIDE AND LONG TERM FARMERS/
20 OCCUPANTS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES
21

22 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*
23

24 **Section 1.** The portion of forest lands within the concessional area of Paper Industry Corporation
25 of the Philippines (PICOP), in the City of Bislig, Municipalities of Hinatuan, Lingig, and Tagbina,
26 Province of Surigao del Sur, which is actually tiled and occupied by farmer-settlers, is hereby
27 reclassified and declared as alienable and disposable land.
28

29 **Section 2.** The aforementioned lands shall be distributed in ownership to *bona fide* and long-term
30 farmers/ occupants thereon, but the existing creeks in the same area shall be given in usufruct to
31 their respective municipalities; Provided, that the said bona fide and long-term farmers/
32 occupants may manage and develop the said creeks upon payment by them of reasonable
33 compensation to the City and/or Municipalities concerned.
34

35 **Section 3.** The scheme of distribution of the land, including the identities of the bona fide and
36 long-term farmers/ occupants thereon, shall be prepared by a Committee which shall be
37 composed of the following: a representative of the Department of Environmental and Natural
38 Resources as Chairperson, a representative of the Department of Agrarian Reform as Vice-
39 Chairperson, the Mayors of the City of Bislig, Municipalities of Hinatuan, Lingig, and Tagbina,
40 the Head of farmers' organization, and the Provincial Director of the Philippine National Police
41 as Members. The scheme of distribution shall include the technical description of each lot
42 pertaining to each of the farmers/ occupants, following the boundaries of existing social forestry
43 stewardship and/or similar contracts that may have been awarded in their favor: Provided, that
44 said scheme of distribution shall be equitable as possible without gross disparities among the
45 awardees.
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47 Conflicts shall be decided by the Committee after due hearing, appealable to the Department
48 Secretary under whose jurisdiction the issue involved falls. The Secretary's decision or order on

1 appeal may be subject to a petition for review by the Office of the President within fifteen (15)
2 days from promulgation of notice of the decision appealed from; Provided, that said petition for
3 review shall be decided within thirty (30) days after receipt thereof; otherwise, the decision or the
4 order appealed from shall be deemed ratified and final.

5

6 **Section 4.** Once the scheme of distribution is approved by the Committee, the Department of
7 Environment and Natural Resources shall give the technical descriptions, survey, map and
8 similar documents to the DAR, which shall undertake the actual distribution of the land under
9 the principles of agrarian reform and the applicable provisions of the Comprehensive Agrarian
10 Reform Law and other related laws.

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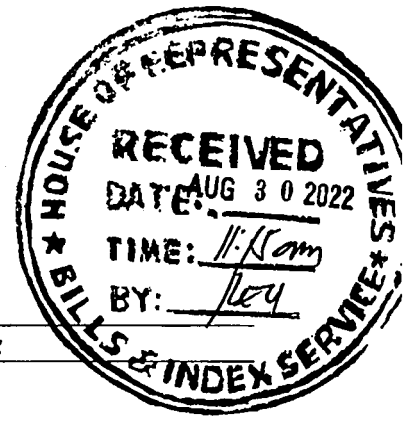
12 **Section 5.** The existing creeks in the area shall be plotted, surveyed and segregated from the other
13 portions of the area by the DENR, and shall be given in usufruct to the City of Bislig,
14 Municipalities of Hinatuan, Lingig, and Tagbina. The Mayor of the concerned municipality and
15 the Head of the organization of the farmer-beneficiaries shall meet to discuss and determine the
16 reasonable compensation to be paid to the City for the management and development thereof by
17 said beneficiaries. In case of disagreement, the Head of the DENR Regional Office shall decide.

18

19 **Section 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette
20 or in at least two (2) national newspaper of the general circulation.

Approved,

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 4196

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines has a total land area of approximately 30 million hectares (ha). Of which, 14.2 million ha are classified as alienable and disposable lands (A&D) while about 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 property rights. The forest cadastre 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 this, the early passage of this bill is sought.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 4196

AN ACT

**TO INCLUDE FOREST LANDS IN THE EXISTING NATIONAL CADASTRAL SYSTEM,
PROVIDING FOR ITS PROCEDURES 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 “Forest Land Cadastral Act.”

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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. Non-alienable and disposable lands- all lands that are not agricultural in classification.
- l. 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.

SECTION 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.

SECTION. 5. *Establishment of the Forest Cadastre.* –The DENR shall update its existing cadastre to include parcels with existing tenure agreements in non-alienable and disposable lands within a city or municipality. Untenured forest lands shall also be reflected to complete the cadastral map.

SECTION 6. *How the Survey Shall Be Conducted.* – The conduct of survey for the establishment of the cadastre shall be guided by the following:

1. 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.
2. All existing tenure holders shall be notified and requested to provide relevant data on their tenure. Local government units, NCIP, and DENR offices shall also be notified and requested to provide relevant information. 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.
3. All existing tenures in non-alienable and disposable lands shall be plotted and included in the existing cadastral survey system within a city or municipality.
4. 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.

5. All survey plans shall be submitted 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.
6. 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.

SECTION 7. *Registration of Tenure Instruments.* – All identified tenure instruments and those that may be issued after the effectivity of this Act shall be registered with the Registry of Deeds of the locality where the forest land is located.

SECTION 8. *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. Such blocks shall be reflected on the maps.

SECTION 9. *National Parks and Protected Areas.* – All protected areas and national parks 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.

SECTION 10. *Mineral Lands.* – All mineral 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.

SECTION 11. *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.

SECTION 12. *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.

SECTION 13. *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.

SECTION 14. *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.

SECTION 15. *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.

SECTION 16. *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.

SECTION 17. *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.

SECTION 18. *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.

SECTION 19. *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.

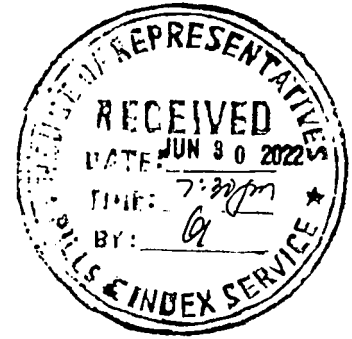
SECTION 20. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general education.

Approved,

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 608



Introduced by **HON. EDGAR M. CHATTO**
First District, Bohol

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The municipality of Loon in the province of Bohol, consisting of 67 barangays, has been bestowed with rich marine paradise, natural lakes, waterfalls and mangrove gardens, among others. The Cabilao and Sandingan islands, located in Loon, are considered favorite tourist destinations. With the development of an international cruise port in Catagbacan, Loon is viewed as an emerging giant of Bohol's eco-cultural tourism industry.

The entire islands of Cabilao (766 hectares) and Sandigan (569 hectares) were proclaimed as Mangrove Swamp Forest Reserves under Proclamation No. 2152 in 1981. This was confirmed upon the passage of Republic Act 7586, or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992.

However, only the barangay of Canigaan and a portion of Calayugan of Sandingan Island and Lake Danao in Barangay Pantudlan of Cabilao Island have actual mangroves worthy to be protected and covered under the NIPAS Act. A big percentage of these islands remain agricultural, residential and with very few commercial establishments. These islands have remained idle and unproductive for a long time, once reclassified, will open the opportunity for tourism, business and economic developments. These islands, like Panglao, will undoubtedly be hailed as one of the world's famous tourist destinations and another addition to Philippines' pride once developed as it boasts of beautiful diving spots sought after by diving enthusiasts. Panglao is among the disestablished islands under the NIPAS Act.

Section 5 (4) of the NIPAS Act mandates that within three (3) years from the effectivity, the DENR shall study and review each area composing the system as to its suitability or non-suitability for preservation as protected area. However, more than twenty (20) years had elapsed, the DENR has yet to submit a study and a review on the suitability or non-suitability of the two (2) islands to be included in the system.

With the steady influx of tourists to these areas in recent years, demands for transportation and accomodation complete with facilities must be met. Thus, it is the desire of the local government that the inclusion of these islands under the NIPAS Act be modified and limited to mangrove areas and natural lakes where migratory birds are seen and unique species of fish are found. This will allow development of the area and the improvement of transportation to the benefit of the constituents and tourists.

Under the NIPAS Act, disestablishment of a protected area under the System or modification of its boundary shall take effect pursuant to an Act of Congress. Hence, this proposed legislation seeks to exclude certain portions of

the islands of Cabilao and Sandingan from the coverage of protected areas under the NIPAS Act and to lift the ban in the titling of lots of the two islands which is greatly disadvantageous to the lot owners, prejudicial to the welfare of its constituents, and counterproductive to the economic development of the islands.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is sought.



EDGAR M. CHATTO

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 608

Introduced by **HON. EDGAR M. CHATTO**
First District, Bohol

**“AN ACT
RECLASSIFYING CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND LOCATED AT THE
ISLANDS OF CABILAO AND SANDINGAN IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
LOON, PROVINCE OF BOHOL, INTO ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE
LANDS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”**

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

SECTION 1. Reclassification as Alienable and Disposable Land.

– Certain portions of the islands of Cabilao and Sandingan in the municipality of Loon, Province of Bohol, with total areas of Seven Hundred Sixty Six Hectares (766 has) and Five Hundred Sixty Nine hectares (569 has), respectively, are hereby declared as alienable and disposable lands, thus, excluded from the coverage of protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992 as provided under Rule 8 of DENR Administrative Order No. 2008-26.

The inclusion of these whole islands under the NIPAS Act will therefor be modified and limited to the actual mangrove areas and the natural lake where migratory birds are seen and unique species of fish are found.

SECTION 2. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within six (6) months following the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DENR shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

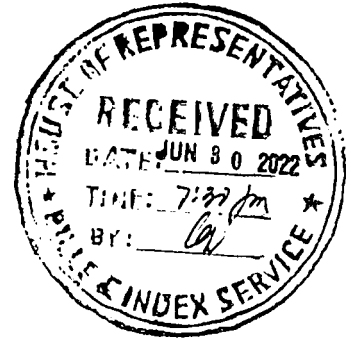
SECTION 3. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 607



Introduced by **HON. EDGAR M. CHATTO**
First District, Bohol

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Pamilacan Island is a small island of the municipality of Baclayon. The island lies at the heart of the Bohol Sea and is 12 kilometers away from the Bohol main island. It is home to more or less 200 families with fishing as the main source of livelihood.

Blessed with white sand beaches, the island is a tourist destination because of magnificent dive sites nearby, dolphin and whale watching adventures and bountiful marine life. It also boasts of a 200-year-old Spanish fort.

Under Presidential Decree No. 705, series of 1975, the island remains unclassified. Despite the activities in the island, current occupants and would-be lot owners are prevented from applying for land ownership unless the island is re-classified as alienable and disposable by a law.

A bill seeking the reclassification of the Pamilacan Island was filed in the Fourteenth (14th) Congress. It was approved by the House of Representatives on third reading and transmitted to the Senate. However, it remained unacted upon since 2009.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, there were land titles issued after a cadastral survey was made on the island sometime in the 1960s but only to be questioned later on because the island remains "unclassified".

This predicament is counterproductive to the island which has greatly increased tourism activities in the last decades. Tourism development has remained almost nil. This hampers economic development in the island, prevents income for the local government and frustrates opportunities for the local inhabitants. On the other, this has opened anomalies on land titling in the island.

The filing of the bill now is to aimed to correct the current situation and allow for land ownership to deserving constituents and the development of the area.

For the foregoing reasons, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


EDGAR M. CHATTO

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 607

Introduced by **HON. EDGAR M. CHATTO**
First District, Bohol

AN ACT
DECLARING A PARCEL OF LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN
LOCATED IN THE ISLAND OF PAMILACAN, MUNICIPALITY OF
BACLAYON, PROVINCE OF BOHOL AN AGRICULTURAL LAND
OPEN TO DISPOSITION FOR AGRICULTURAL, RESIDENTIAL,
COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL OR OTHER PRODUCTIVE PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Agricultural Land. The parcel of land of the public domain consisting of one hundred thirty-nine point four hectares (139-4 has.), more or less, identified as Project No. 6-A, forestlands, per Land Classification Map No. 694, dated 01 November 1927, located in the Island of Pamilacan, Municipality of Baclayon, Province of Bohol is hereby declared an agricultural land open to alienation and disposition for agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial or other productive purposes. Said parcel of land is more particularly described as follows:

Tie line corner 1 is S. 05° 42' E., 14,941.34 m. from BLLM 1, CAD 359 D, Baclayon, Bohol;

Corner	Bearing	Distance to next Corner	Tree Monument or Natural Landmark
1	S. 58° 24' W.	123.24 m.	Old P.S. Cyl. Conc. Mon
2	S. 59° 54' W.	161.26 m.	P.S. Cyl. Conc. Mon. X Coco Tree
3	S. 74° 41' W.	124.27 m.	X Coco Tree
4	S. 89° 38' W.	130.41 m.	X Coco Tree
5	N. 66° 45' W.	124-32 m.	X Coco Tree
6	N. 42° 38' W.	48.35 m.	X Coco Tree
7	N. 33° 20' W.	33.47 m.	X Coco Tree
8	N. 26° 47' W.	56.91 m.	X Coco Tree
9	N. 39° 50' W.	58.33 m.	X on rock
10	N. 68° 16' W.	61.81 m.	X on rock
11	N. 33° 12' W.	57-98 m.	X on Rock
12	S. 80° 09' W.	20.88 m.	P.S. Cyl. Conc. Mon.
13	N. 20° 56' W.	139.27 m.	X on Rock
14	N. 30° 42' E.	5721 m.	X on Rock
15	N. 05° 43' W.	48.30 m.	X on Rock
16	N. 00° 53' W.	13.65 m.	P.S. Cyl. Conc. Mon.
17	N. 13° 53' E.	103. 62 m.	X on Rock
18	N. 04° 27' E.	97.31 m.	P.S. Cyl. Conc. Mon.
19	N. 05° 42' W.	77-32 m.	X on Rock

20	N. 19° 41' E.	31.63 m.	X on Rock
21	N. 21° 32' E.	27.10 m.	P.S. Cyl. Conc. Mon.
22	N. 01° 33' W.	78.12 m.	X on Rock
23	N. 19° 32' E.	117.10 m.	X on Rock
24	N. 00° 23' E.	64.52 m.	-----
25	N. 12° 12' W.	32.31 m.	-----
26	N. 01° 20' W.	28.91 m.	-----
27	N. 10° 59' W.	38.06 m.	-----
28			
29	N. 62° 11' E.	69.37 m.	X on Rock
30	N. 23° 11' E.	51.08 m.	X on Rock
31	N. 23° 05' E.	34.71 m.	X Coco Tree
32	N. 60° 08' E.	55.60 m.	X Coco Tree
33	N. 34° 07' E.	17.40 m.	P.S. Cyl. Conc. Mon.
34	N. 37° 14' E.	20.60 m.	-----
35	N. 53° 18' E.	110.15 m.	X Coco Tree
36	N. 80° 18' E.	59.78 m.	-----
37	S. 79° 52' E.	36.96 m.	X Coco Tree
38	S. 67° 41' E.	71.85 m.	X Coco Tree
39	S. 70° 59' E.	52.43 m.	P.S. Cyl. Conc. Mon.
40	S. 48° 46' E.	63.61 m.	-----
41	S. 52° 04' E.	68.05 m.	-----
42	S. 73° 46' E.	183.61 m.	-----
43	S. 39° 21' E.	11.778 m.	-----
44	S. 82° 30' E.	126.16 m.	-----
45	S. 44° 34' E.	186.53 m.	-----
46	S. 34° 44' E.	65.66 m.	-----
47	S. 24° 16' E.	93.93 m.	P.S. Cyl. Conc. Mon.
48	S. 18° 23' E.	119.15 m.	-----
49	S. 07° 00' E.	251.15 m.	-----
50	S. 24° 12' E.	243.74 m.	-----
51	S. 42° 28' E.	244.73 m.	-----
52	S. 50° 30' E.	135.01 m.	-----

SEC. 2. Affirmation and Validation of Existing Titles. — Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, all certificates of title covering portions of the parcel of land described in Section 1 hereof that were issued prior to the approval of this Act by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and/or the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) are hereby affirmed and validated.

SEC. 3. Disposition of Untitled Portions. — In the disposition of portions of the agricultural land not covered by Section 2, affirming and validating existing titles or those areas where no title has been issued, regardless of the identified use of the same, the DENR shall issue a free patent over any lot in said untitled portions to any citizen of the Philippines who has continuously occupied or cultivated either by himself or through his predecessors-in-interest or who shall have paid real estate taxes thereon, while the same has not been occupied by any person for at least three (3) years prior to the approval of this Act, not to exceed twelve hectares (12 has.) per applicant and subject to the limitations in Section 5, on protection of ecological balance.

SEC. 4. Final Survey and Distribution. — The final survey, delineation and distribution of the parcel of land subject of this Act shall be undertaken by the DENR.

SEC. 5. Protection of Ecological Balance. — The area described in Section 1 hereof is hereby excluded from the coverage of Section 16, areas needed for forest purposes, of Presidential Decree No. 705 or the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines, as amended:

Provided, however, That the removal of timber and other forest products and the utilization of other natural resources in the said parcel of land and throughout the Island of Pamilacan shall not in any way prejudice the ecological balance in the island, and shall be subject to forest, water and other environmental protection laws, rules and regulations: Provided, moreover, That the island's existing mangrove forests and the twenty (20)-meter protection zone along the coastal area and the banks of rivers and streams throughout their entire length, which shall be surveyed and delineated by the DENR on the ground, shall retain their classification as forestland, subject to the easement of public use in the interest of recreation, navigation, flotage, fishing and salvage.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within six (6) months from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation. The provisions of the Public Land Act pertaining to the distribution of public lands and the issuance of land titles, insofar as they are not inconsistent herewith, shall apply.

SEC. 7. Separability Clause. — If any part or section of this Act is declared unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect in any manner the other parts or sections of this Act.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, proclamations or issuances contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity Clause. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,