



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City  
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IP Phone Trunkline No. 988-3367  
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## MEMORANDUM

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

**The Directors**  
Legal Affairs Service  
Policy and Planning Service  
Climate Change Service  
Knowledge and Information Systems Service

**The Regional Executive Directors**  
Regions III, VII, CARAGA

**The Administrator**  
National Mapping Resource and Information Authority

FROM : **The Director**  
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **ENDORSEMENT OF CHANGE IN AGENDA FROM THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

DATE : 22 November 2022

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The Committee on Natural Resources sent an electronic mail on 21 November 2022 amending the Agenda for the Full Face-to-Face meeting on **November 29, 2022 (Tuesday), at 9:30 AM** at Belmonte Hall, South Wing Annex, House of Representatives. The following bills were added to be deliberated:

1. House Bill No. 2897 - "An Act Excluding from The Operation of Proclamation No. 290 Dated July 18, 1988, Which Established the Teacher's Camp Reservation Situated In The City of Baguio, Certain Portions of Land Embraced Therein and Declaring The Same Alienable and Disposable Lands for Disposition to Actual and Qualified Applicants Under Republic Act No. 730\* authored by Rep. Mark O. Go; and
2. House bill No. 2898 - "An Act Excluding from The Operation of Proclamation No. 93 Dated November 5, 1992, Which Established the Buyog Watershed Forest Reserve Situated In the City of Baguio, Certain Portions of Land Embraced Therein And

Declaring The Same Alienable and Disposable Lands for Disposition to Actual and Qualified Applicants Under Republic Act No. 730”, authored by Rep. Mark O. Go

In this regard, we are **requesting additional comments on the bills above on or before November 24, 2022, at 5 PM** via email at [denrlegislative@yahoo.com](mailto: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, we would like to reiterate our invitation for a consultative meeting on **November 28, 2022, at 10:00 AM at the Office of the Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and Foreign Assisted, and Special Projects, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room.**

Attached herewith is the invitation letter with the amended agenda and copies of the additional 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  
☎ +63 (2) 8931-5001 local 7161; Telefax: +63(2) 8951-3003  
[committee.naturalresources@house.gov.ph](mailto:committee.naturalresources@house.gov.ph), [naturalresources.hrep@gmail.com](mailto:naturalresources.hrep@gmail.com)

21 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:**

This has reference to the invitation sent by the Committee on Natural Resources for our 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 addition to the measures we enumerated in the earlier invitation, please be informed that additional House Bills will be discussed during the meeting. May we, therefore, invite you or your authorized representative to shed light 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**

- 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**;

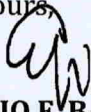
3. **House Bill No. 537**, entitled “*An Act Converting A Portion Of The Land, Embraced Under Proclamation No. 508 And Proclamation No. 532 As Alienable And Disposable To The Actual Bona Fide Occupants Thereof*”, authored by **Rep. Geraldine B. Roman**;
4. **House Bill No. 607**, entitled “*An Act Declaring 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**;
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**;
6. **House Bill No. 2897**, “An Act Excluding From The Operation Of Proclamation No. 290 Dated July 18, 1988 Which Established The Teacher’s Camp Reservation Situated In The City Of Baguio, Certain Portions Of Land Embraced Therein And Declaring The Same Alienable And Disposable Lands For Disposition To Actual And Qualified Applicants Under Republic Act No. 730”, authored by **Rep. Mark O. Go**; and
7. **House Bill No. 2898**, “An Act Excluding From The Operation Of Proclamation No. 93 Dated November 5, 1992 Which Established The Buyog Watershed Forest Reserve Situated In The City Of Baguio, Certain Portions Of Land Embraced Therein And Declaring The Same Alienable And Disposable Lands For Disposition To Actual And Qualified Applicants Under Republic Act No. 730”, authored by **Rep. Mark O. Go**.

We would like to request the submission of your position paper on the aforementioned House Bills, or a draft thereof, on or before **25 November 2022 (Friday)**, 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](mailto: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**;
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**V. Other Matters**

**VI. Adjournment**

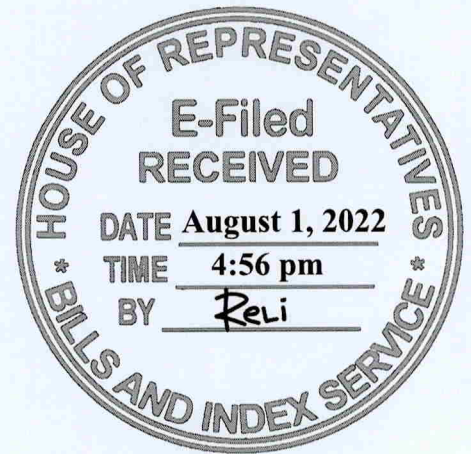
**Proposed Resource Persons**

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, VII, and CAR
9. Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development CAR
10. Concerned LGUs

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2897**



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**Introduced by Hon. Mark O. Go**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Teacher's Camp was first established in 1907 as a training and vacation center for American and Filipino teachers and employees of then Insular Government of the Philippine Islands. On July 18, 1988, then President Corazon Aquino issued Proclamation No. 290, which declared an area of two hundred two thousand nine hundred eighty (202,980) square meters known as "Lot No. 1", together with an area of thirty-four thousand two hundred twenty-nine (34,229) known as "Lot No. 2", as the Teacher's Camp Reservation and was placed under the administration of then Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

On April 20, 2004, then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issued Proclamation No. 613 which segregated the portion of land identified as "Lot No. 2" from the coverage of the Teacher's Camp Reservation in order to serve as a housing site open for disposition in favor of the residents already occupying the said area. Meanwhile, those who were occupying areas within the reservation but outside "Lot No. 2" could not benefit from the 2004 Proclamation, and remain insecure in their housing situation, even if they have been residents therein prior to the creation of the Teacher's Camp Reservation in 1988. Furthermore, the present condition of the areas that have for so long been used for residential purposes, could no longer accommodate the purpose for which the Teacher's Camp was originally created for.

This bill seeks to segregate an area of twenty-one thousand twenty-nine (21,029) square meters from the present coverage of the Teacher's Camp Reservation, and open the said area for disposition to

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2897**

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**Introduced by Hon. Mark O. Go**

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**AN ACT**  
**EXCLUDING FROM THE OPERATION OF PROCLAMATION NO. 290 DATED JULY 18, 1988 WHICH ESTABLISHED THE TEACHER'S CAMP RESERVATION SITUATED IN THE CITY OF BAGUIO, CERTAIN PORTIONS OF LAND EMBRACED THEREIN AND DECLARING THE SAME ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE LANDS FOR DISPOSITION TO ACTUAL AND QUALIFIED APPLICANTS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 730**

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

**Section 1.** Certain portions of land within the Teachers Camp Reservation are hereby declared excluded from the operation of Proclamation No. 290 dated July 18, 1988, in the City of Baguio.

**Section 2.** These excluded portions of land, are more particularly described as follows:

**Boundaries**

<u>Line</u>	<u>Direction</u>	<u>Adjoining Lots/ Features</u>
1-2	SW	PROC. 613, SPECIAL PATENT NO. 021-AF
2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10	SW, NW	PROCLAMATION No. 290
10-11	E	FILY AVILA
11-12	NE	SOUTH DRIVE BARANGAY HALL
12-1	SE	SOUTH DRIVE ROAD

Tie Line: TRI. STA. "BAGUIO", BAGUIO TOWN SITE to corner "1"

**Lot Description:**

<u>Line</u>	<u>Bearings</u>			<u>Distance</u>	
Tp-1	N	42	13	E	572.54 m.
1-2	N	49	06	W	284.83 m.



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)**

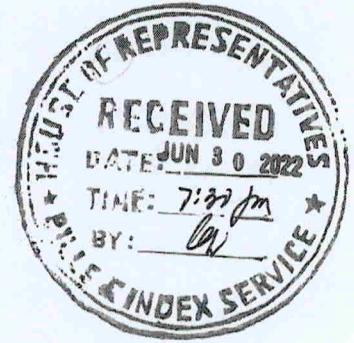
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Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 607



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

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#### 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 (14<sup>th</sup>) 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

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. 010 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:

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



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

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.

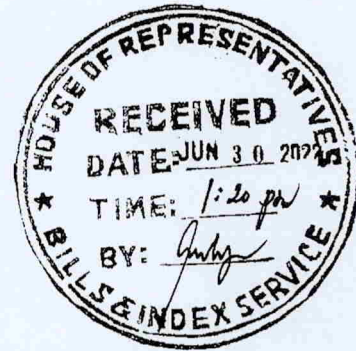
SECTION 20. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general education.

Approved,

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 95



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

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**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*  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Norte

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;



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

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;

along lines 19-20-21-22	by lot No.630 and lot No. 653,
on the South	
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;

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.

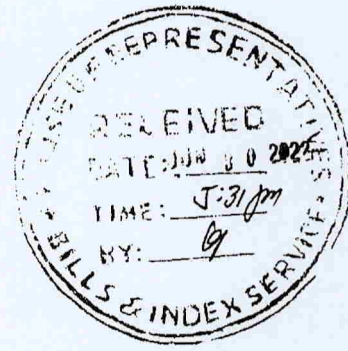
*Approved.*

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

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 435**



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**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 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.  
11

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 Gazettee  
20 or in at least two (2) national newspaper of the general circulation.

Approved,



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

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 537



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Introduced by Representative **GERALDINE B. ROMAN**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

On December 17, 1965, President Diosdado Macapagal issued Proclamation No. 508 which established the Subic Bay Naval Reservation under the administrative jurisdiction of the United States Government.

Two years thereafter or in 1967, some areas of the Subic Bay Naval Reservation were returned to the administration of the Philippine Government by virtue of a Memorandum of Agreement entered into between the Philippine Government and the American Government.

The area covered by Proclamation No. 508 consisted of two (2) parcels of land designated as Parcel No. 9 with an area of 627,330 sq. m. and Parcel No. 10 with an area of 886,770 sq. m. more or less.

On September 16, 1989, the Investigating Committee created pursuant to DENR Special Order No. 556 conducted an ocular inspection and found hundreds of families occupying Parcel No. 10 since 1963 or even before Proclamation No. 508 was passed. These families have organized themselves into an association known as "Socorro Hills Community Association, Inc." previously known as "Tipo, Morong, Bataan Community Association, Inc." These families now form a community within the area. In fact, they have already introduced improvements in the area, such as residential houses of strong materials with some fruit bearing trees planted thereon. It is also noteworthy to note that there is a public elementary school in the area constructed by the government.

Through the years, petitions were made before the different agencies of the government such as the Department of National Defense, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Health and Department of Public Works and Highways, all of which favorably recommended for the release of the area occupied as alienable and disposable.

The petition would have been granted through the proposed amendatory proclamation of then Executive Secretary Teofisto Guingona during the administration of



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

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**House Bill No. 537**

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Introduced by Representative **GERALDINE B. ROMAN**

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

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**House Bill No. 537**

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Introduced by Representative **GERALDINE B. ROMAN**

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**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**

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

SECTION 1. Certain lands of the public domain located in the municipalities of Hermosa, Dinalupihan and Morong, Province of Bataan are hereby declared alienable and disposable lands for residential, agricultural and other similar purposes to the actual bona fide occupants thereof.

Said parcel of land has an area of 1,949,128.26 sq. m., more or less, is particularly described as follows as shown on plan Swo-030805-000192:

Bounded on the E., along line 1-2 by Roosevelt National Park, Municipality of Hermosa; along line 2 to 8 by Bahay Buwaya River; on the S., along lines 8 to 21 by Perimeter Road; on the SW., along line 21-22 by the Municipality of Morong; on the W., along lines 22 to 27 by Bangal River; on the NW., along lines 27 to 30 by Municipality of Dinalupihan; on the N., along lines 30 to 45 by National Road; and on the NE., along lines 45 to 53-1 by Municipality of Dinalupihan. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan being N. 85 deg. 25 W., 16, 618.13 from BLIM # 1 Hermosa Cad.

thence S. 19 deg. 12'W., 228.06 m. to point 2;  
thence S. 84 deg. 09'W., 87.75 m. to point 3;  
thence S. 04 deg. 58'W., 323.03 m. to point 4;  
thence S. 11 deg. 31'E., 130.27 m. to point 5;  
thence S. 20 deg. 24'E., 103.34 m. to point 6;  
thence S. 45 deg. 18'W., 94.61 m. to point 7;  
thence S. 15 deg. 13'E., 113.39 m. to point 8;  
thence S. 53 deg. 05'W., 145.29 m. to point 9;  
thence S. 36 deg. 55'W., 96.90 m. to point 10;

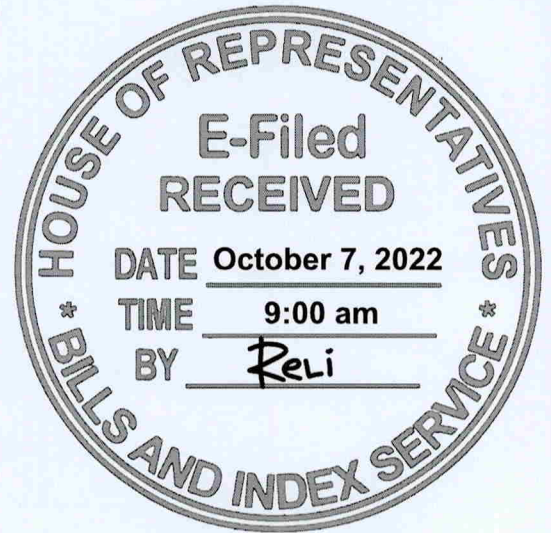




Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL No. 5453**



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Introduced by HONORABLE ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.

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**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 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.



Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL No. 5453**

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Introduced by HONORABLE ERNESTO “ERNIX” M. DIONISIO, JR.

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**AN ACT**  
**TO ESTABLISH THE FOREST CADASTRE, 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

1. 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

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*