



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors**
Legal Affairs Service
Policy and Planning Service
Climate Change Service

The Bureau Directors
Forest Management Bureau
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Land Management Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau

All Regional Executive Directors

The Executive Director
Palawan Council for Sustainable Development

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **INVITATION AND REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
RE: SUBSTITUTE BILL ON AN ACT REQUIRING ALL
GRADUATING SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE
STUDENTS TO PLANT TWO (2) TREES EACH AS A CIVIC
DUTY FOR ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND
PRESERVATION AND SUBSTITUTE BILL ON AN ACT
REQUIRING PARENTS TO PLANT TWO (2) TREES FOR
EVERY CHILD BORN TO THEM FROM THE COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

DATE : 15 May 2023

In reference to the letter received on 14 May 2023, the Committee on Appropriations is inviting the Department to a meeting on **May 17, 2023 (Wednesday), at 9:30 A.M. via Zoom videoconference** to deliberate on several measures, including the following:

1. Substitute Bill to House Bills Numbered 978, 1009, 2342, 2498, 4207, and 5864, titled: "AN ACT REQUIRING ALL GRADUATING SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS TO PLANT TWO (2) TREES EACH AS A CIVIC DUTY FOR ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR", introduced by Representatives Mark O. Go, Marlyn L. Primicias- Agabas, Joseph Stephen "Caraps" S. Paduano, et al.; and

2. Substitute Bill to House Bills Numbered 582, 986, 2499, 2580, and 4813, titled: "AN ACT REQUIRING PARENTS TO PLANT TWO (2) TREES FOR EVERY CHILD BORN TO THEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR", introduced by Representatives Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Mark O. Go, Dante S. Garcia, et al.

In this regard, we would like to request additional **comments/recommendations**, if any, on the above-mentioned substitute bills. Kindly submit it on **or before May 16, 2023, at 5 PM** via email at denrlo@denr.gov.ph.

Attached herewith are the invitation letter and a copy of the Substitute Bills for your reference.

Your attendance is highly encouraged.

ROMIROSE B. PADIN

cc: Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Quezon City, Metro Manila

May 12, 2023

HON. ANTONIA "TONI" YULO-LOYZAGA

Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
budget@denr.gov.ph

Dear Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga:

The Committee on Appropriations will hold a meeting via the Zoom Video Conference on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 9:30 A.M. to deliberate on several measures including the following

1. Substitute Bill to House Bills Numbered 978, 1009, 2342, 2498, 4207 and 5864, titled: **"AN ACT REQUIRING ALL GRADUATING SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS TO PLANT TWO (2) TREES EACH AS A CIVIC DUTY FOR ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"**, introduced by Representatives Mark O. Go, Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Joseph Stephen "Caraps" S. Paduano, et al.; and
2. Substitute Bill to House Bills Numbered 582, 986, 2499, 2580, and 4813, titled: **"AN ACT REQUIRING PARENTS TO PLANT TWO (2) TREES FOR EVERY CHILD BORN TO THEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"**, introduced by Representatives Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Mark O. Go, Dante S. Garcia, et al.

In this regard, may we respectfully request your participation, as a resource person, in the said meeting. Should you have any clarification and for confirmation of your attendance, please contact the Committee Secretariat at +63 939 831 5386.

The Zoom Meeting ID and Passcode are as follows:

Meeting ID: 993 7511 0859
Passcode: APPRO23

Attached are the electronic copies of the Substitute Bills for your reference.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


REP. ELIZALDY S. CO
Chairperson



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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

(In substitution to HB Nos. 978, 1009, 2342, 2498, 4207 & 5864)

Introduced by Reps. Mark O. Go, Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Joseph Stephen 'Caraps' S. Paduano, Dante S. Garcia, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Joseph Gilbert F. Violago, Eleanor Bulut-Begtang, Elizaldy S. Co, Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., Ciriaco B. Gato, Jr., and Gerardo P. Valmayor, Jr.

1 **AN ACT**

2 **REQUIRING ALL GRADUATING SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND**
3 **COLLEGE STUDENTS TO PLANT TWO (2) TREES EACH AS A CIVIC**
4 **DUTY FOR ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION, AND**
5 **APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

6
7 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
8 *Congress assembled:*

9 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Graduation
10 Legacy for Reforestation Act."

11 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the declared policy of the State to
12 protect and advance the right of the Filipino people to a balanced and healthful
13 ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Towards this end, the
14 State shall promote and pursue reforestation programs and encourage tree planting
15 as a means of involving the youth in public and civic affairs.

1 SEC. 3. *Tree Planting as a Mandatory Requisite for Graduation.* - As an
2 act of public service before they join the country's labor force, all graduating
3 students in senior high school and college shall plant at least two (2) trees as a
4 prerequisite for graduation.

5 SEC. 4. *Tree Planting Sites* – The Department of Environment and Natural
6 Resources (DENR) and the concerned local government units (LGUs) shall
7 determine the appropriate tree planting sites within the local government's
8 respective areas, in coordination with schools, colleges and universities.

9 SEC. 5. *Preference for Indigenous Species.* - The species of trees to be
10 planted should be appropriate to the location, climate and topography of the area,
11 with preference for the planting of indigenous species.

12 SEC. 6. *Partner Agencies and Stakeholders.* - The Department of
13 Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall
14 implement the provisions of this Act, in partnership with the following agencies:

15 (a) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);

16 (b) Department of Agriculture (DA);

17 (c) Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);

18 (e) Department of Science and Technology (DOST); and

19 (f) National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

20 The responsibilities of these agencies shall include:

21 1. Establishment of nursery and seedling preparation;

- 1 2. Site identification and preparation;
- 2 3. Technical support and extension services;
- 3 4. Monitoring and evaluation.

4 **SEC. 7. *Provisions of Seedlings.*** – The Community Environment and
5 Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of the Department of Environment and
6 Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), in
7 partnership with LGUs throughout the Philippines shall maintain a seedling bank
8 that will serve as a ready source of seedlings to be used in the implementation of
9 this Act.

10 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*** - The DepEd, and CHED, in
11 coordination with DENR and DILG, and in consultation with other agencies, shall
12 promulgate and issue the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) to implement
13 this Act within sixty (60) days after its effectivity.

14 **SEC. 9. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions
15 of this Act shall be included in the budgets of the implementing departments and
16 agencies in the annual General Appropriations Act.

17 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** - Should any portion or provision of this Act
18 be declared unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall
19 remain in full force and effect.

1 SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive
2 orders, proclamations or administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the
3 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

4 SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

6 *Approved,*

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

(In substitution to House Bills Numbered 582, 986, 2499, 2580, & 4813)

Introduced by Reps. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Mark O. Go, Dante S. Garcia, Edwin L. Olivarez, Joseph Gilbert F. Violago, Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, Elizaldy S. Co, Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., Ciriaco B. Gato, Jr., Gerardo P. Valmayor, Jr., and Joseph Stephen "Caraps" S. Paduano

AN ACT

REQUIRING PARENTS TO PLANT TWO (2) TREES FOR EVERY CHILD BORN TO THEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “Family Tree Planting Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the declared policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the Filipino people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Towards this end, the State shall promote and pursue reforestation programs and encourage tree planting

1 as part of the family's responsibility and legacy to protect the environment and
2 conserve our natural resources for the future generation.

3 **SEC. 3. *Mandatory Tree Planting.*** - All parents residing in the Philippines
4 whether legally married or not, shall be required to plant two (2) trees for every
5 child born to them. These trees shall be planted within the premises of their own
6 home. If not possible, trees shall be planted in an area to be designated by the
7 Barangay Council where they reside, with the approval of the Department of
8 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The planted species should be
9 appropriate to the location, climate and topography of the area, with preference for
10 the planting of indigenous species and fruit-bearing trees.

11 **SEC. 4. *Provision of Seedlings.*** - The Community Environment and
12 Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of the Department of Environment and
13 Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), in
14 partnership with local government units (LGUs) throughout the Philippines, shall
15 maintain a seedling bank that will serve as a ready source of seedlings to be
16 provided to parents planting the tree under this Act.

17 **SEC. 5. *Tree Planting as a Requirement for Birth Certificate Release.*** -
18 To ensure compliance with this Act, the Local Civil Registry where the birth of the
19 child shall be registered, must only release the Certificate of Live Birth of the child
20 upon the presentation of the parents' sworn statement of compliance. A
21 certification from the DENR or the LGU concerned shall suffice the requirement

1 for the release of the Certificate of Live Birth. Planting of the trees must be done
2 within thirty (30) days after the child's birth.

3 SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* The DENR Secretary shall include in the
4 Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall
5 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

6 The LGU concerned shall also set aside funds from any available local
7 revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the management of the tree planting
8 activities.

9 SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DENR shall, in
10 consultation with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), DA,
11 the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and the Department of Social Welfare
12 and Development (DSWD), promulgate the implementing rules and regulations
13 within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act.

14 SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* Should a competent court declare any portion
15 or provision of this Act unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof
16 shall continue to be enforced.

17 SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of
18 implementation, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any
19 provision of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, superseded or amended
20 accordingly.

1 SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

3 *Approved,*

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