



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS NA YAMAN



MEMORANDUM

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

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

The Regional Executive Directors
Regions X and XI

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS AND INVITATION TO COMMITTEE MEETING ON HOUSE BILLS 8431 AND 8524 OR THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMUNITY/COMMUNAL FORESTS IN VARIOUS MUNICIPALITIES FROM THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

DATE : 08 August 2024

In reference to the electronic letter received by our Office, the Special Committee on Reforestation of the House of Representatives is inviting the Department to a meeting on **13 August 2024, Tuesday, 09:00 AM at Conference Room 5, Ramon V. Mitra, Jr., Building, House of Representatives, Batasan Complex, Quezon City** on the initial deliberation of the following legislative measures:

- **House Bill No. 8431** - "An Act Establishing Community Forests in Barangay Bayanga, Besigan, Dansolihon, Lumbia, Mambuaya, Pagalungan, Tumpagon, Pigsag-an, San Simon, Taglimao, Tagpangi, Tignapoloan, Tuburan, and Baikigon, in the First District of Cagayan de Oro City, Province of Misamis Oriental, and Appropriating Funds Therefo", authored by Rep. Lordan G. Suan; and
- **House Bill No. 8524** - "An Act Establishing Communal Forests in the Municipalities of Baganga, Boston, Caraga, Cateel, Manay and Tarragona in the First District of

Davao Oriental, and Appropriating Funds Therefor", authored by Rep. Nelson I. Dayanghirang.

In this regard, may we respectfully request for **comments/recommendations** on the abovementioned bills, in anticipation of the Committee meeting, as requested by the Committee. Kindly send them on or before **Monday, 12 August 2024, at 5 PM** via email at denrlo@denr.gov.ph. Further, kindly inform us of the name/s of the representative/s from your office who will participate in the meeting so we may include him/her/them as resource person/s.

Attached herewith are the Letter Invitation, Agenda, and the House bills for your reference.


ROMIROSE B. PADIN

Cc: Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION
3/F Ramon V. Mitra Building, Batasan Pambansa Complex,
Constitution Hills, Quezon City
Tel. Nos.: 8931.68.88/8931.50.01 loc. 7140
E-mail Add: committee.reforestation@house.gov.ph
Mobile Nos. 0976.146.9036 Desiree/0949.788.3473 Mark/0917.145.2596 landline

05 August 2024

HON. MARIA ANTONIA YULO LOYZAGA

Secretary

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
DENR Bldg. Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

ATTENTION: MR. ARLEIGH J. ADORABLE
Director, Forest Management Bureau

Dear Secretary Yulo - Loyzaga,

The Special Committee on Reforestation cordially invites you to an **initial deliberation** on **13 August 2024 (Tuesday), 9:00 AM**, at **Conference Room No. 5, Ramon V. Mitra Building, Batasan Complex, House of Representatives, Re:**

- a. **HB 8431** – ‘An Act Establishing Community Forests in Barangay Bayanga, Besigan, Dansolihon, Lumbia, Mambuaya, Pagalungan, Tumpagon, Pigsag-an, San Simon, Taglimao, Tagpangi, Tignapoloan, Tuburan, and Baikigon, in the First District of Cagayan de Oro City, Province of Misamis Oriental, and Appropriating Funds Therefor’, authored by Rep. Lordan G. Suan; and
- b. **HB 8524** – ‘An Act Establishing Communal Forests in the Municipalities of Baganga, Boston, Caraga, Cateel, Manay and Tarragona in the First District of Davao Oriental, and Appropriating Funds Therefor’, authored by Rep. Nelson I. Dayanghirang.

We would highly appreciate your presence in the said hearing to hear your insights and comments on the above-cited measures.

Should you have inquiries, kindly contact us through our mobile and landline numbers mentioned above.

Very truly yours,

ELEANOR C. BULUT-BEGTANG

Chairperson

Special Committee on Reforestation

FOR THE CHAIRPERSON:

Desiree A. Barrameda
DESIREE A. BARRAMEDA

Committee Secretary

Special Committee on Reforestation



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION
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05 August 2024

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ELEANOR C. BULUT-BEGTANG

Chairperson

Special Committee on Reforestation

FOR THE CHAIRPERSON:

Desiree A. Barrameda
DESIREE A. BARRAMEDA

Committee Secretary

Special Committee on Reforestation



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION**

**13 August 2024 (Tuesday), 9:00 AM, Conference Room No. 5,
Ramon V. Mitra, Jr. Building, Batasan Complex,
House of Representatives**

A G E N D A

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call
- II. Acknowledgement of Guests/Resource Persons
- III. Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting
- IV. Preliminary Remarks of **HONORABLE CHAIRPERSON
ELEANOR C. BULUT-BEGTANG**
- V. Initial deliberation of the following local measures:
 - a. **HB 8431** – ‘An Act Establishing Community Forests in Barangay Bayanga, Besigan, Dansolihon, Lumbia, Mambuaya, Pagalungan, Tumpagon, Pigsag-an, San Simon, Taglimao, Tagpangi, Tignapoloan, Tuburan, and Baikigon, in the First District of Cagayan de Oro City, Province of Misamis Oriental, and Appropriating Funds Therefor’, authored by Rep. Lordan G. Suan; and
 - b. **HB 8524** – ‘An Act Establishing Communal Forests in the Municipalities of Baganga, Boston, Caraga, Cateel, Manay and Tarragona in the First District of Davao Oriental, and Appropriating Funds Therefor’, authored by Rep. Nelson I. Dayanghirang.
- VI. Other Matters
- VII. Adjournment



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 8524



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE NELSON L. DAYANGHIRANG**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Province of Davao Oriental boasts of diverse natural tourist spots and is home to a wide array of natural resources. However, its abundant natural wealth is under threat from both natural disasters and man-made activities. Global Forest Watch, an initiative of the World Resources Institute that provides data and tools for monitoring forests in near real-time, estimates that the Province of Davao Oriental lost 9.99kha of humid primary forest between 2002 to 2021.

From this figure alone, it is evident that the protection and preservation of Davao Oriental's forests requires collaboration and coordination between the national and local government. As part of this effort, this representation proposes the establishment of community forests in the Municipalities of Baganga, Boston, Caraga, Cateel, Manay, and Tarragona in the First District of Davao Oriental.

A communal forest refers to a tract of forest land set aside by the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upon the recommendation of the concerned local government unit (LGU) for the use of the residents of a city or municipality. The residents of the city or municipality may then cut, collect, and remove forest products for their personal use in accordance with existing laws and regulations and subject to the provision that utilization of resources therein shall be in accordance with sustainable development.

The establishment of communal forests will empower the residents and local communities in the First District of Davao Oriental to take a more active role in the responsible use, conservation, and management of their municipality's forest resources. Further, as the DENR will be mandated to provide technical assistance to the concerned LGUs in all facets of forest management planning, both the LGUs and local communities will be equipped with the necessary training and knowledge to ensure that their communal forests will be utilized in a sustainable manner and conserved through replanting activities.

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



NELSON L. DAYANGHIRANG
Representative
1st District, Davao Oriental



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **8524**

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE NELSON L. DAYANGHIRANG**

1 **AN ACT**

2 **ESTABLISHING COMMUNAL FORESTS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BAGANGA,**
3 **BOSTON, CARAGA, CATEEL, MANAY, AND TARRAGONA IN THE FIRST DISTRICT**
4 **OF DAVAO ORIENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

5

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

8

9 **SEC. 1. Short Title.** – There shall be established, under the supervision of the
10 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), community forests in
11 the Municipalities of Baganga, Boston, Caraga, Cateel, Manay, and Tarragona in the
12 Province of Davao Oriental.

13

14 The DENR shall determine the size and specific limits of the community forest
15 to be established within each of the municipalities concerned.

16

17 Each established community forest shall be identified in accordance with a
18 Forest Land Use Plan, consistent with the municipality's land use plan, and all existing
19 and related plans, programs and projects of the province and national government.

20

21 **SEC. 2.** The DENR shall, within two (2) years after the determination and
22 establishment of the community forests, transfer the management of the same to the
23 local government unit (LGU) concerned through a memorandum of agreement. It

1 shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel
2 on the management, utilization and conservation of community forests,

3

4 The DENR shall, in coordination with the concerned LGU, undertake a forest
5 resource inventory in each of the barangays, determine the sustainable level of forest
6 resource utilization and provide the LGU technical assistance in all facets of forest
7 management planning. To ensure the sustainability of the community forests, the
8 management plan shall include the necessary replanting activities by the
9 communities and the LGUs.

10

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

14

15 The LGU concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in
16 an amount deemed appropriate for the management, utilization, and conservation of
17 the community forests.

18

19 **SEC. 4.** Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the DENR
20 Secretary shall issue the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of
21 this Act.

22

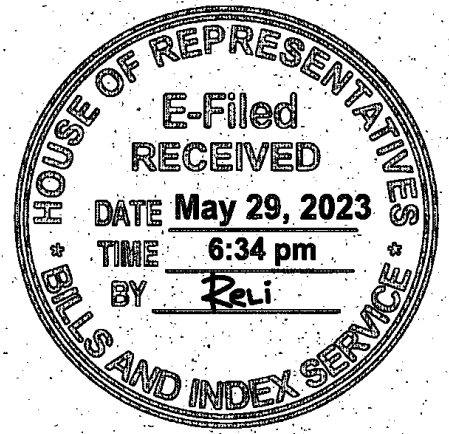
23 **SEC. 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
24 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

25

26 Approved,



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



Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **8431**

Introduced by Representative LORDAN G. SUAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure seeks to establish community forests in Barangays Bayanga, Besigan, Dansolihon, Lumbia, Mambuaya, Pagalungan, Tumpagon, Pigsag-an, San Simon, Taglimao, Tagpangi, Tignapoloan, Tuburan, and Baikington, all in the 1st District of Cagayan de Oro City.

A community forest is a tract of forest land set aside by the Secretary of the DENR for the use of the residents of a municipality or a barangay from which said residents may plant, re-plant, collect, and remove forest products for their personal use in accordance with existing laws and regulations.

A community forest provides several benefits, viz.:

1. Strengthens social cohesion by bringing people to work together.
2. Reduces deforestation thru a sustainable source of forest products.
3. Increases income and food security.
4. Provides tourism opportunities.

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


HON. LORDAN G. SUAN
1st District, Cagayan de Oro City



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

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8431

Introduced by Representative LORDAN G. SUAN

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY FORESTS IN BARANGAYS
BAYANGA, BESIGAN, DANSOLIHON, LUMBIA, MAMBUAYA,
PAGALUNGAN, TUMPAGON, PIGSAG-AN, SAN SIMON,
TAGLIMAO, TAGPANGI, TIGNAPOLOAN, TUBURAN, AND
BAIKINGON, IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF CAGAYAN DE ORO
CITY, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established, under the supervision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), community forests in Barangays Bayanga, Besigan, Dansolihon, Lumbia, Mambuaya, Pagalungan, Tumpagon, Pigsag-an, San Simon, Taglimao, Tagpangi, Tignapoloan, Tuburan, and Baikingon, in the First District of Cagayan de Oro City, Province of Misamis Oriental.

The DENR shall determine the size and specific forest limits of the community forest to be established within each of the barangay concerned.

Each established community forest shall be identified according to a Forest Land Use Plan, consistent with the city's land use plan, and all existing and related plans, programs, and projects of the city and national government.

SECTION 2. The DENR shall, within two (2) years after the determination and establishment of the community forests, transfer the management of the same to the local government unit (LGU) concerned, under the direct supervision of the City Local Environment and Natural Resources Office, through a memorandum of agreement. It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management, utilization and conservation of the community forests.

The DENR shall, in coordination with the concerned LGU, undertake a forest resource inventory in each of the barangays, determine the sustainable level of forest resource utilization and provide the LGU technical assistance in all facets of forest management planning. To ensure the sustainability of the community forests, the management plan shall include provisions for replanting by the communities and the LGUs.

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

The local government unit concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the management, utilization, and conservation of the community forests.

SECTION 4. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR Secretary shall issue the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act.

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

Approved,