

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

13th Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1774



Introduced by Hon. Trinidad "Ebbie" G. Apostol

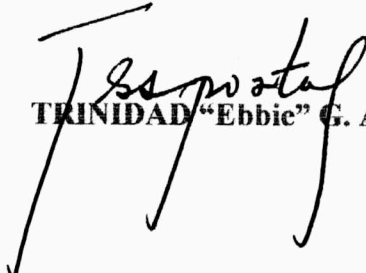
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to amend Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7161, further amending Section 71 of Presidential Decree No. 705, otherwise known as "The Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines".

The present provision banned cutting of all mangrove species. It is understood that the cutting is intended for firewood purposes. It cannot be denied that said prohibition is in recognition of the critical importance of mangroves for coastline protection, maintenance of estuarine and marine life, fisheries as well as the continuing decline of the country's remaining mangroves due to the conversion, clear cutting and over-exploitation.

It is more important however, that we need to recognize the need for increase economic activity for a more sustainable community to attract more goods and services, hence, if the purpose of the cutting of mangroves is for a greater purpose, as in the case, the construction of a Seaport in the area a priority project of the government, could this not justify the amendment to section 71 of RA 7161?

I therefore earnestly urge for the passage of this bill as this will help towards a self-sufficient community.


TRINIDAD "Ebbie" G. APOSTOL

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AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 4 OF THE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7161,
FURTHER AMENDING SECTION 71 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE
NO. 705, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE REVISED FORESTRY
CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

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

Section 1. Section 4 of the Republic Act No. 7161 is hereby
amended to read as follows:

"Section 4. Section 71 of Presidential Decree No. 705, as
amended, formerly Section 223 of the National Internal
Revenue Code) is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 71. *Charges on Firewood, Branches and Other
Recoverable Wood Wastes of Timber.* – Except for all
mangrove species whose cutting shall be banned, there shall
be collected forest charges on each cubic meter of firewood
cut in forestland, branches and other recoverable wood waste
of timber, such as timber ends, tops and stumps, when used as
raw materials for the manufacture of finished products, Ten
pesos (P10.00).

FOR MANGROVE SPECIES, HOWEVER, CUT TO
ENHANCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA, AS
AUTHORIZED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES, NO SUCH FEES SHALL BE COLLECTED.

"Only third or fourth group wood can be taken for
firewood. However, if jointly authorized by the Secretaries of
both the Department of environment and Natural Resources,
and Agriculture, first and second group woods may be
removed for firewood purposes from land which is more
valuable for agricultural than for forest purposes."

Section 2. Laws, Circulars inconsistent with the above amendments
are hereby modified accordingly.

Approved,