

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

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2937

Introduced by Honorable Catalino V. Figueroa

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a reforestation program for the Caramayon Watershed in the Municipality of Catbalogan, Province of Samar.

The need for water of the residents of Catbalogan is far greater than that of their forebears. As the municipality's population grows, so has the demand for more and purer water.

The municipality's source of potable water is the Caramayon Watershed. However, this source is not producing enough water to meet the requirements of the residents. The remedy to this problem is to rehabilitate the Caramayon Watershed and expand its area.

To appreciate the need for these remedial actions, an understanding of how water source is formed is herein described. Rainwater falls on a watershed (catch area) which flows above ground to streams and rivers or soaks into the ground to reappear as springs or to be drawn from wells. The amount of rainwater that will enter a water supply depends on the amount precipitation and the volume of runoff. The average precipitation rate is the rate at which water is delivered to the land. But a significant portion of this returns directly to the atmosphere through the process of evapotranspiration (evaporation from lakes and rivers plus transpiration by plants). The difference between precipitation rate and evapotranspiration rate is called the runoff rate of water yield. The runoff eventually enters the surface water system of rivers and streams. This flow is the amount theoretically available for direct human use and management.

Viewed from the foregoing, the reforestation and expansion of the Caramayon Watershed will increase the water supply of Catbalogan. Hence, the approval of which is recommended.


CATALINO V. FIGUEROA

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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A REFORESTATION PROGRAM FOR THE
CARAMAYON WATERSHED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CATBALOGAN,
PROVINCE OF SAMAR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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, a reforestation program for the Caramayon Watershed in the Municipality of Catbalogan, Province of Samar.

SECTION 2. The program shall have the following objectives:

- a) To reforest and rehabilitate the denuded watershed in order to improve water yield, restore soil fertility, and conserve flora and fauna;
- b) To expand the existing watershed area; and
- c) To conduct an information campaign on the need to preserve, expand and maintain watershed area.

SECTION 3. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued implementation of the

reforestation program shall be included in the annual budget of the Municipality of Catbalogan.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,