

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

Second Regular Session  
THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

HOUSE BILL NO. 5120



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**Introduced by Honorable Proceso "Procy" J. Alcala**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

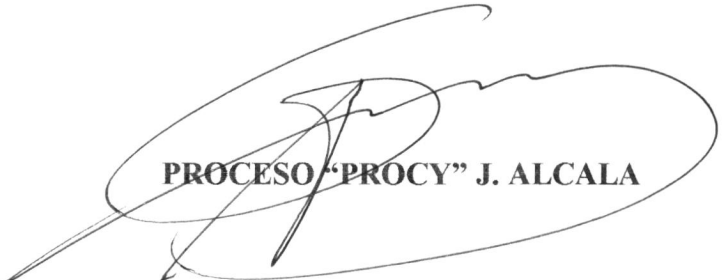
With the advent of modernization, environmental concerns are more often compromised in favor of unsustainable human activities. The increasing human population and the quest for better quality of life demanded the increasing dependence and utilization of the natural resources. However, the uncontrolled and rampant activities resulted to the outright destruction of these resources.

Since time immemorial, the mystical Mount Banahaw in the province of Quezon, being rich in biodiverse flora and fauna species, has been host to the livelihood and other economic activities of the outlying communities in the provinces of Quezon, Batangas and Laguna. As a watershed, it serves as the main source of potable and irrigation water for the said provinces. Its fertile soil and cool climate provides for ideal farming.

But due to the illegal cutting of trees coupled with the traditional practice of slash and burn as well as the proliferation of small settlements in various portions of the mountain, the source of potable and irrigation water has been gradually decreasing. At present, Mount Banahaw has been declared a protected area to save it from further degradation. With its actual land area of 11,133 hectares, it is presently representing less than one percent forest remains of the total Philippines forest than the previous years.

In order to deal with this posing problem, a reforestation program through planting of endemic and fruit-bearing trees is being proposed to instill a responsible and sustainable management and utilization of resources. With this strategy, ensuring the source of income of the people easily translates to environmental protection.

In this regard, support of the 13<sup>th</sup> Congress for the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

  
**PROCESO "PROCY" J. ALCALA**

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

Thirteenth Congress  
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **5120**

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Introduced by Honorable Proceso “Procy” J. Alcala

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A REFORESTATION PROGRAM COVERING TWO HUNDRED**  
**(200) HECTARES IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF DOLORES, CANDELARIA,**  
**SARIAYA AND TIAONG, PROVINCE OF QUEZON, INCLUDING THE PROTECTED**  
**AREAS OF MTS. BANAHAW AND SAN CRISTOBAL, 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 a reforestation program in the Municipalities of Dolores, Candelaria, Sariaya and Tiaong, Province of Quezon, covering certain barangays situated at the foot of Mts. Banahaw and San Cristobal and others.

Section 2. **Objectives.** The program shall have the following objectives:

- a) to protect the water shed of Mts. Banahaw and San Cristobal;
- b) to encourage peoples’ participation and increase their awareness which will redound to the sustainable utilization and management of the protected area;
- c) to increase livelihood activities and augment income of the community’s residing with the protected area;
- d) to strengthen the institutional partnership among national government agency, local government units, non-governmental organization and people’s organization, and local communities;

Section 3. **Program Implementation.** The program shall be supervised by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in collaboration with the local governments of Dolores, Candelaria, Sariaya and Tiaong, Quezon, the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) in the province, as well as concerned environmental non-governmental organizations.

Section 4. **Certificate of ownership and usufruct.** To encourage the sustainable implementation and management of the program, participating groups or individuals shall be issued certificate of tree ownership for trees planted on production forests and certificate of usufruct for trees planted on protection forests.

Section 5. **Establishment of Nursery.** There shall be established a centralized nursery to ensure sustainable supply of seedlings for the tree planting activities of the four municipalities and the protected areas of Mt. Banahaw and Mt. San Cristobal.

Section 6. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** The DENR, the local governments of Dolores, Candelaria, Sariaya and Tiaong, the PAMB, and concerned environmental non-governmental organization, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section. 7. **Funding.** For the effective implementation of this Act, the initial amount of ten million pesos is hereby appropriated to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the sustainable management of the program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section. 8. **Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,