

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

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
15th CONGRESS

HOUSE BILL NO. 744

INTRODUCED BY HON. JANE TAN-CASTRO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare illegal logging a heinous crime and to impose the penalty of death therefor .

Massive logging in the Sierra Madre mountain range had been blamed for the flash floods and landslides that killed more than 1,000 people in Quezon and Aurora in December 2004. The Philippines' forest cover has thinned to 6.6 million hectares today from approximately 16 million hectares in the 1950s. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources reports that about 200,000 hectares a year are destroyed and almost 5 million hectares are considered denuded due to illegal logging. As a result, soil erosion and river siltation plague the provinces of Aurora, Quezon, Nueva Ecija and some parts of Mindanao.

More dangerous and intolerable is the unlawful practice of cutting trees in protected watershed areas where hardwood trees still abound. This may be attributed to the public indifference to the harmful effects of illegal logging until disaster strikes. It is necessary to instill in our people the truth that they are the first victims of environmental degradation.

Illegal loggers should pay for their crime. There must be a stricter punishment for illegal logging because the current punishment is only six years imprisonment and fine based on the price of the confiscated logs.

To further avoid widespread forest destruction and make tree growing and preservation part of our national consciousness, approval of this bill is imperative.


JANE TAN-CASTRO
Representative
2nd District, Capiz

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

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
15th CONGRESS

HOUSE BILL NO. 744

INTRODUCED BY HON. JANE TAN-CASTRO

**AN ACT
DECLARING ILLEGAL LOGGING A HEINOUS CRIME AND IMPOSING THE
PENALTY OF DEATH THEREFOR.**

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

SECTION 1. Illegal logging is hereby declared a heinous crime.

As used in this Act, illegal logging shall include, but not limited to, the indiscriminate cutting, felling or destruction of trees by unlicensed individuals or corporations, or by legitimate loggers cutting beyond the limits prescribed by existing timber license agreements, licenses, or permits.

SEC. 2. Any person found guilty of illegal logging shall suffer the penalty of death and a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00).

If the offender is a corporation, firm, partnership or association, the penalty shall be imposed upon the officer or officers of the corporation, firm, partnerships or association responsible for the violation.

SEC. 3. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,