

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2303

Introduced by Honorable Godofredo V. Arquiza

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to require all Filipino citizens residing in Urban cities and municipalities, owning more than two hundred (200) square meters of vacant land to apportion or segregate at least twenty (20) per cent of said land for planting trees and vegetables.

Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Constitution states:

"The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature."

The State takes cognizance of the continuing degradation of the Philippine environment which has become a matter of national concern. The quality of life of the people cannot advance unless the living environment is nurtured and valuable natural resources are protected and preserved.

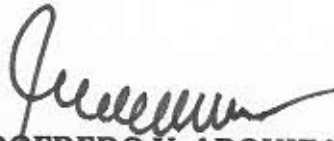
We all know that the world is experiencing climate change and the economic growth is crucially dependent upon the state of the human environment. For this reason, the improvement of the quality of our environment should occupy a higher place in the scheme of priorities of our country.

It is necessary that we protect our dwindling natural resources from further depletion to prevent floods. In this regard, all Filipino citizens residing in Urban Cities and Municipalities, who own more than two hundred (200) square meters of vacant land should cooperate by

segregating and apportioning at least twenty (20) per cent of said land for the purpose of planting trees and vegetables, to reverse the damage that has already been done by typhoons, severe storms and downpours that have struck the nation.

Consequently, there is a need to pass this law to save our environment from flood and prevent further injury to life, property, health and safety. Hence, we must take substantial steps to help solve the growing hazards so that these conditions can be arrested and our country's environment rehabilitated.

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


GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA
Senior Citizen Party List

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HOUSE BILL NO. 2303

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**AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL FILIPINOS RESIDING IN URBAN CITIES AND
MUNICIPALITIES, OWNING TWO HUNDRED (200) SQUARE METERS
OR MORE OF VACANT LAND, TO RESERVE AND SEGREGATE AT LEAST
TWENTY (20) PER CENT OF THEIR LAND TO PLANT TREES AND
VEGETABLES**

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

Section 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the *“Tree Planting Act of 2010.”*

Section 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Constitution states:

“The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.”

Consonant with these constitutional principle, the following are the declared policies of this Act:

- (a) To take cognizance of the continuing degradation of the Philippine environment which has become a national concern;
- b) To recognize the vital role of every Filipino citizen in saving and improving our environment and natural resources;

c) To recognize the importance of every Local Government unit and every "barangay" and to actively seek their partnership;

d) To encourage the Filipino family to cooperate and give their full support to achieve this purpose;

In accordance with these policies, this Act aims to:

(1) adopt measures whereby every Filipino citizen residing in Urban cities and municipalities, owning more than two hundred (200) square meters of vacant land to reserve and segregate at least twenty (20) per cent of said land to plant trees and vegetables; and

(2) establish a program in every local government unit towards this objective.

Section 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:

(a) "Ecology" is that branch of science that deals with the study of the interrelationships of living things (organisms, plants and animals) and their environment;

(b) "Local Government unit " shall mean - as defined in the Local Government Code, as amended;

(c) "Tree" shall mean any woody perennial plant with one main stem or trunk which develops many branches;

(d) "Vegetables" shall mean herbaceous plant cultivated for food such as cabbage, potato, bean, etc.; and

(e) "Urban" shall mean comprising a city or town, as distinguished from the country; opposed to rural.

Section 4. *Duty of every Filipino citizen* – Every Filipino citizen owning more than two hundred (200) square meters of vacant land shall be required to reserve and segregate at least twenty (20) per cent of said land to plant trees and vegetables.

Section 5. ***Government Assistance.*** – The Government shall provide the following:

The Local Government Units (LGUs) and every “barangay” shall institute a program in pursuance of the objectives of this Act.

The “Barangay” shall have the following functions:

- (a) To draw up a list of Filipino citizens owning more than two hundred (200) square meters of vacant land within their barangay ;
- (b) To plan, implement and monitor yearly programs in pursuance of the objectives of this Act;
- (c) To maintain and regularly update, on a quarterly basis, the list of Filipino citizens who have complied with the planting of trees and vegetables;
- (d) To serve as a General Information and Liaison Center and monitor compliance of the provisions of this Act ;
- (e) To report to the mayor, found violating any provision of this Act; and
- (f) To file complaints or charges against any Filipino citizen refusing to comply with the privileges under this Act before the Department of Justice or the provincial, city or municipal trial court.

Section 6. ***Municipal/ City Responsibility.*** – It shall be the responsibility of the Municipal/City, through the Mayor to prominently display posters, stickers, and other notices that will generate public awareness of this Act and ensure that the provisions of this Act are implemented to its fullest.

Section 7. ***Partnership of the National and Local Government Units.*** – The national government and local government units shall undertake to ensure the implementation of this Act in their respective territorial jurisdictions.

Section 8. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, shall promulgate the implementing, rules and

regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act in consultation and coordination with the Municipal/City Mayor and barangays.

Section 9. **Appropriation.** – The necessary appropriation for the operation of this Act shall be appropriated and approved by the local government units concerned. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act upon its effectivity shall be charged out of the funds of the Office of the President. Thereafter, any such sum as shall be needed for the regular implementation of this Act shall be included in subsequent General Appropriations Act following its enactment into law.

Section 10. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,


GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA
Senior Citizen Party List