

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3690

Introduced by **HON. ANA CRISTINA S. GO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The following is consonant with the constitutionally enshrined policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

With the massive destruction brought about by typhoons "Ondoy", "Pepeng" and others the last couple of years, it is not only timely but of utmost urgency that we start a program to plant idle public agricultural and forest lands with trees. The roots of these trees will absorb rainwater come the rainy season and will surely reduce the damage brought about by floods. Cascading rainwater that come rushing through denuded mountains and other areas of idle public agricultural and forest lands do not only result to loss of property but of precious lives as well.

It is public knowledge that most of our public agricultural and forest lands are sitting idly by without any product derived therefrom. When trees are cleared, rainfall runs off the soil more quickly and contributes to floods and further erosion. This tree planting program will reduce the effect of heavy rains and prevent erosion by anchoring the soil with their roots. Thus, calamities brought about by massive flooding may be avoided.

Hence, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



ANA CRISTINA S. GO

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PLANTING OF TREES ON IDLE PUBLIC
AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST LANDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

SECTION 1. All local agricultural and environmental offices shall identify idle public agricultural and forest lands which are seriously degraded or threatened in their respective jurisdictions.

SEC. 2. All idle public agricultural with no immediate utilization plans and barren forest lands shall be planted with trees by local government units.

SEC. 3. A Program Director shall be appointed to oversee and manage the tree planting efforts, funding allocation, technology transfers, or capacity building assistance to local government units in furtherance of this tree planting program.

SEC. 4. At the election of the local government units, or on the determination of the Program Director, the local government units may enter into an agreement with a private, non-governmental organization, authorizing the organization to act on behalf of or assist the local government unit concerned in this tree planting program.

SEC. 5. The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall develop and put into operation a plan for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this tree planting program.

SEC. 6. There shall be provisions for seedlings and fertilizers and the equipment and personnel required for the implementation of this program.

SEC. 7. The appropriation necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the implementing agencies the year following its enactment into law.

Approved,