

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2142

Introduced by HON. FLORENCIO C. GARAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Forests are vital to life. We rely on nature for our survival as well as for the income it generates. Trees help preserve the balance in our ecosystem, preventing devastating floods and ensuring a steady supply of water for the irrigation of lands. They have provided people with food, fibers and medicines for thousands of years. Above all, they have provided mankind with wood.

Throughout history, people have used wood to make tools, construct buildings and create works of art. They have used it for fuel. Each year, loggers cut down millions of trees in the world's forests. Logs from these trees are shipped to saw mills and pulp mills. Sawmills cut the logs into lumber, for use in construction work and in the making of furniture. Pulp mills break down the logs into wood pulp, the main raw material for making paper.

The timberland forests in the City of Bislig, Province of Surigao del Sur suffered from the same fate. Known as the last remaining lowland dipterocarp forest in Mindanao, its unique and diverse fauna, fish and flora, including the endangered Philippine Eagle (*pithecophaga jefferyi*), are now facing extinction due to the unabated illegal logging, slash and burn clearing and illegal settling, especially in the former PICOP concession area, which are slowly eating its way into the timberland areas.

This bill seeks to preserve the timberland forests of the City of Bislig, Province of Surigao del Sur from extinction by providing for the reforestation and rehabilitation of Twenty-three Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-Nine (23,279) hectares of timberland.

In view of its national and local importance, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



FLORENCIO C. GARAY

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE REFORESTATION AND REHABILITATION OF
TWENTY-THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE
(23,279) HECTARES OF TIMBERLAND IN THE CITY OF BISLIG,
PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR

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

SECTION 1. The timberland area in the City of Bislig, Province of Surigao del Sur, covering an area of Twenty-Three Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-Nine (23,279) hectares, shall be reforested and rehabilitated under the supervision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through the Provincial/Community Environment and Natural Resources (PENRO/CENRO).

SECTION 2. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the DENR under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the maintenance, protection and preservation of the area shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take upon its approval.

Approved,