

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 4098

Introduced by HONORABLE SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.

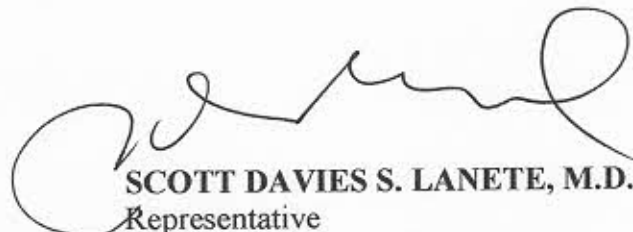
EXPLANATORY NOTE

As stated in the 1987 Philippine Constitution, it is the prime duty 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.

Throughout the century, the municipalities of Placer, Cawayan, Esperanza, Pio V. Corpus, Cataingan, Dimasalang, Palanas and Uson, all situated in the Province of Masbate, have been plagued by massive environmental degradation. Deforestation has been identified as one of the main causes of environmental degradation. The number of trees in these municipalities has been exponentially declining and is believed to be the primary cause of flash floods. It has also largely contributed to global warming.

As a solution to this environmental predicament, it is essential that the State take a proactive step by reforesting these areas. The State cannot afford to wait for nature to heal itself. Environmental degradation would be expediently solved by planting trees in the affected areas. The number of trees to be planted as a result of this bill will be very significant in combating the ills affecting the environment.

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


SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.
Representative
Third District, Province of Masbate

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AN ACT REFORESTING 3,000 HECTARES OF PUBLIC LAND IN PLACER, CAWAYAN, ESPERANZA, PIO V. CORPUS, CATAINGAN, DIMASALANG, PALANAS AND USON, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF MASBATE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy - It is the declared 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.

SECTION 2. Reforestation in Placer, Cawayan, Esperanza, Pio V. Corpus, Cataingan, Dimasalang, Palanas and Uson - An aggregate area of 3,000 hectares of public land in the municipalities of Placer, Cawayan, Esperanza, Pio V. Corpus, Cataingan, Dimasalang, Palanas and Uson, all in the Province of Masbate, as identified by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall be reforested.

SECTION 3. Filing Report - The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines, on the results of the work accomplished under this Act, specifying the location and area of the sections reforested or afforested, the costs of the works and such other data as may, in his judgment, be found necessary for the information of the President

SECTION 4. Appropriations - The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources shall immediately include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules* - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause* - If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining part or provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,