



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



Sixteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5754**

**Introduced by Honorable Abdullah D. Dimaporo
and Honorable Imelda Quibranza Dimaporo**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish an arboretum in the campus of the Mindanao State University-Lanao del Norte Agricultural College in Barangay Ragain, Municipality of Sultan Naga Dimaporo to be known as the MSU-LNAC Arboretum.

An arboretum is an area devoted to specimen planting of woody plants which are either trees or shrubs. Distinct from a forest or park, it is in a sense an outdoor museum of trees. It is a place where many varieties of trees and shrubs are grown for research, educational, and ornamental purposes where trees and other woody plants are cultivated for exhibition.

An arboretum plays an important role in the lives of many people and is a valuable environmental, educational, recreational, and cultural resource for the country. It plays an important role in the area of conservation and preservation of endangered species of trees where they can be protected and propagated to preserve the biological diversity of planet Earth.

Trees help us address climate change by reducing the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. They do this by absorbing carbon dioxide (CO₂), using the carbon (C) to produce sugar for tree growth and releasing the oxygen (O₂) back in the air. As trees grow, they store carbon in their leaves. Planting more trees surely mitigate the effects of climate change – as long as the right trees are planted in the right place. An arboretum is such one right place.

Many services that an arboretum performs for the public at large are too well known to require elaboration. So also is the educational importance of an arboretum attached to a college or university. Perhaps the most important arboretum function from the academe point of view is to provide an outdoor laboratory for scientific studies by faculty, students and residents in dendrology, phenology, botany, environmental studies, photography and other related fields of study. The arboretum will serve as an educational resource for environmental stewardship, the history of the province, the study of trees and other woody plants, and a place of learning and respite for the people of Lanao del Norte. Hence this bill.

In view of the importance of protecting and conserving endangered tree species and other woody plants, and having a clean and healthy environment, approval of this measure is earnestly requested.



ABDULLAH D. DIMAPORO
2nd District, Lanao del Norte



IMELDA QUIBRANZA DIMAPORO
First District, Lanao del Norte



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AN ACT

**ESTABLISHING THE MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY-LANAO
DEL NORTE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE ARBORETUM IN
BARANGAY RAMAIN, MUNICIPALITY OF SULTAN NAGA
DIMAPORO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *MSU-LNAC Arboretum.* – There is hereby established an
arboretum of 100 hectares within the reservation of the Mindanao State
University-Lanao del Norte Agricultural College (MSU-LNAC) campus in
Barangay Ragain, Municipality of Sultan Naga Dimaporo, Province of Lanao
del Norte to be known as the MSU-LNAC Arboretum.

For purposes of this Act, *arboretum* refers to a reserved area which is
essentially for a well-grown and representative collection of trees or shrubs
species planted and maintained for the purpose of reference, scientific studies
and as a convenient source of seed and herbarium materials.

1 SEC. 2. *Objectives.* – The MSU-LNAC Arboretum shall have the
2 following objectives:

3 a) For scientific purposes and to provide an outdoor laboratory for
4 scientific studies by faculty and students in dendrology, phenology, botany,
5 environmental studies, and other related fields of study;

6 b) For the teaching of Dendrology

7 c) As a sanctuary for the preservation and conservation of genetic
8 resources of trees and shrubs, and as a model for environmentally sound
9 landscape management;

10 d) For the study of phenology and the reproductive biology of species

11 e) To grow the best of the woody plants and introduce new plants
12 that can thrive in the locality;

13 f) Provide recreation, enjoyment, promotion of environment
14 consciousness and study sites for students, visitors and local communities while
15 preserving the natural beauty and ambience of the arboretum's protection zone;
16 and

17 g) Serve as the habitat for a variety of amphibians, reptiles, birds, and
18 small mammals, making for an interesting mix of wildlife in the area.

19 SEC. 3. *Site of the Arboretum.* – The site of the arboretum shall be
20 strategically located within the MSU-LNAC based on the availability of the
21 required area and its accessibility. The site shall be situated in an area with
22 available source of water, with good drainage and fertile soil.

1

2 SEC. 4. *Layout and design.* The layout and design of the arboretum
3 should satisfy its objectives and should conform to the following:

4 a). The trees should be planted in rows following the contour of the land
5 area;

6 b). At least five replicates per species should be represented in a
7 random/fashion design to ensure the security of the species;

8 c). Each tree species should be numbered, labelled and tagged with
9 scientific name, common and/or local name, and date and place of collection.
10 For easy reference, the details of each tree species should be represented in the
11 plan. In case of mortality, the species should be replanted with the appropriate
12 species as indicated in the plan.

13 SEC.5. *Planting.* The following should be considered:

14 a). The species to be planted should be of high quality materials. They
15 should be properly determined around 12 months prior to planting in
16 consultation with the nearest office of the DENR.

17 b). Proper site preparation should be done prior to planting. This includes
18 brushing/slashing, staking, digging of hole, plowing and/or cultivation. Grasses
19 and other competing vegetation within at least one meter radius around each
20 spot must be cleared.

21 c). Planting should be done at the onset of the rainy season.

1 SEC. 6. *Supervision and Management.* – The MSU-LNAC Arboretum
2 shall be placed under the overall management and supervision of the DENR
3 with an organization to be put in place by the DENR, headed by a
4 Superintendent and all appointed by the Secretary of the DENR. The
5 organization shall be named by the DENR Secretary.

6 SEC. 7. *Oversight Committee.* – An Oversight Committee is hereby
7 created to oversee and monitor the development and operation of the arboretum
8 composed of the following: 1). the Secretary of Environment and Natural
9 Resources or his representative as Chairman; 2). The Provincial Governor of the
10 Province of Lanao del Norte or his representative as co-Chairman; 3). the
11 Mayor of the Municipality of Sultan Naga Dimaporo, as Vice-Chairman; 4).
12 The President of the League of Municipal Mayors of Lanao del Norte or the
13 Vice-President thereof if the Mayor of Sultan Naga Dimaporo is the President
14 of the League, as member; 5). the Chancellor or Head of the MSU-LNAC, as
15 member and another member to be appointed by the DENR Secretary from
16 among three (3) recommendees of the Provincial Governor.

17 SEC. 8. *Donations.* The Arboretum may accept donations from
18 government agencies or units and from private entities, both local and foreign.

19 SEC. 9. *Arboretum Account.* – For purposes of the expeditious
20 implementation of this Act, the finances of the Arboretum shall be deposited in
21 trust with the Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte, and donations for
22 specific purposes shall be in separate trust funds.

1 SEC. 10. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement initially
2 the provisions of this Act shall be taken from the available savings of the
3 DENR System. Such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation of
4 the arboretum shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

5 SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
6 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

7 Approved,