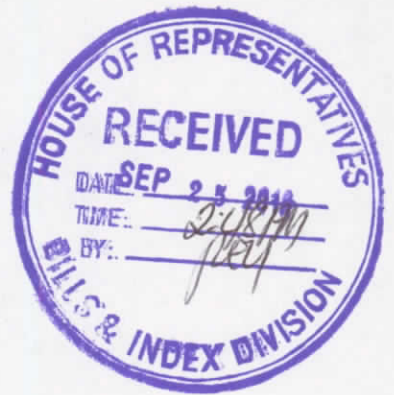


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8290



Introduced by Hon. HARLIN NEIL J. ABAYON, III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Implementation and enforcement are often not the strong suit of the Philippines when it comes to laws, including environmental laws—of which there are now many because of the critical importance and national security imperative of protecting the country's natural resources from illegal exploitation as well as from deterioration due to the pressing demands of the national economy and population growth.

Incentives to elicit compliance and administrative penalties for non-compliance are thus far the main tools of environmental law implementors, while there are scores of prohibited activities, major violators are hardly penalized.

What is needed is focused law enforcement of environmental laws. This proposed bill to strengthen enforcement of environmental laws and regulation is one major missing piece of the sustainable development approach to natural resources management in the Philippines.

With the Forest and Park Ranger Command as an integral operations unit of the Philippine National Police, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and local government units now have the stronger arm of environmental law enforcement.

Forest rangers and park rangers will not be mere watchmen or security guards of the forests and protected areas of our country. They will be real police officers with special training on strategies, techniques, and tools for their distinct mission of protecting Nature so it will still be there for future generations of Filipinos. The same

qualifications, disqualifications, compensation, emoluments, and benefits other police officers have, they will also have. On top of that, they get special training on environment law and environment science.

With the Forest and Park Ranger Command, there will less dependence on the assistance of the military and other armed services to enforce environmental laws which is the case right now. Having this dedicated operations command of the PNP for environmental laws enforcement will ensure more effective implementation of sustainable development laws in the Philippines.

For future generations of Filipinos, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



REP. HARLIN NEIL J. ABAYON, III
Representative, AANGAT TAYO Party-list

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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 8290

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS OF THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING THE
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE REORGANIZATION AND
MODERNIZATION LAW, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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
"Environmental Law Enforcement Act of 2018".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared to be
the policy of the State:

1. to promote peace and order, ensure public safety and further strengthen local government capability aimed towards the effective delivery of the basic services to the citizenry through the establishment of a highly efficient and competent police force that is national in scope and civilian in character; and
2. to secure for the Filipino people of present and future generations the existence and enjoyment of the Philippines' forests, the flora and fauna whose habitat are the forests, and the economic and scientific resources that must be sustainably developed and harvested therefrom.

Section 3. Assistance of Law Enforcement Agencies. Local Government Units, the Department of Interior and Local Government, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, may, when they deem necessary, call upon law enforcement agencies and instrumentalities of the Government such as the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for the enforcement of environmental laws, executive orders, and their implementing rules and regulations.

Section 4. The Forest and Park Ranger Command of the Philippine National Police. The Forest and Park Ranger Command is hereby created and established as an integral operations unit of the Philippine National Police tasked with the specialized mission to enforce the environmental laws of the country and of its local government units, including forest, forestry, and protected areas laws and ordinances.

Section 5. Organizational and Staffing Structure. The Philippine National Police, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management, Civil Service Commission, and National Police Commission, shall formulate and establish the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the Forest and Park Ranger Command, composed of such police, administrative and technical personnel as may be deemed necessary to efficiently and effectively carry out the functions and duties prescribed by this Act, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Section 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The National Police Commission and the Philippine National Police shall, within one hundred twenty (120) working days from the effectivity of this Act, jointly formulate and approve the Implementing Rules and Regulations necessary to implement this Act.

Section 7. Appropriations. Funding for the initial year of operations of the Forest and Park Ranger Command shall be sourced from the discretionary funds of the Office of the President and one-half of one percent of the excise tax on imported petroleum products. Thereafter, funding shall be through the annual General Appropriations Act. Savings from funds for the initial year of

operations shall carryover to the succeeding year as augmentation funding.

Section 7. Separability. - If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 8. Repealing Clause. - All laws, executive orders, and administrative orders or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 9. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the online version of the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or with established internet website presence.

Approved.