

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez
and Representative Rolando A. Uy*

House Bill No. 9012

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a community forest in Barangay Besigan in the 1st District of Cagayan de Oro City.

A community forest is a tract of forest land set aside by the Secretary of the DENR for the use of the residents of a municipality/barangay from which said residents may plant, re-plant, collect, and remove forest products for their personal use in accordance with existing laws and regulations. Th utilization of resources should also be in accordance with sustainable development.

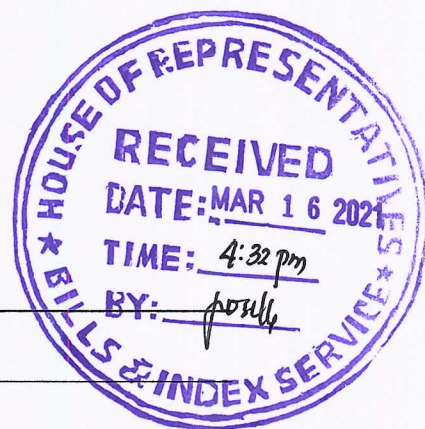
Under DENR AO 92-30, the implementation of community forestry projects has been devolved to the concerned local government unit. This includes the management and control of community forests with an area not exceeding 5,000 hectares, provided that the concerned LGUs shall endeavor to convert said areas into community forestry projects

Generally, community forestry is beneficial to a LGU because it can generate income from the planting and re-planting of trees and plants and the harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products while at the same time promoting sustainability and regulating the ecosystem. It has been considered one of the most promising options of combining forest conservation with rural development and community empowerment and poverty reduction objectives.

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


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ


ROLANDO A. UY



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House Bill No. **9012**

AN ACT

**ESTABLISHING AND DETERMINING A COMMUNITY FOREST IN BARANGAY BESIGAN
IN THE 1ST DISTRICT OF CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established, under the supervision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), a community forest in Barangay Besigan in the 1st District of Cagayan de Oro City.

The DENR shall determine the size and specific forest limits of the established community forest within the barangay concerned.

SEC. 2. The DENR shall, within two (2) years after the establishment and determination of the community forest, transfer the management of the same to the local government unit concerned through a memorandum of agreement. It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management, utilization and conservation of the community forest.

The DENR shall, in coordination with the concerned LGU, undertake a forest resource inventory and determine the sustainable level of forest resource utilization and provide the LGU technical assistance in all facets of forest management planning to ensure sustainable development. The management plan should include provision for replanting by the communities and the LGUs of the community forests to ensure sustainability.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources shall include in the Department's program the establishment of the community forest in Barangay Besigan in the 1st District of Cagayan de Oro City, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The local government unit concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the management, utilization and conservation of the community forest.

SEC. 4. Within sixty (60) days from the passage of this Act, the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources shall issue the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act.

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

Approved,