

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2580



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE EDWIN L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Deforestation has been identified as one of the causes of flash floods associated with climate change and global warming, which has become a global concern, as more countries are beginning to experience climate changes and its negative effect. In the past years, typhoon Ondoy, Pedring, and Sendong had resulted to widespread flash floods due to our denuded forest and water reservoirs—the flash floods claimed thousands of lives, left numerous families devastated, and send small and medium-scale business in the affected areas reeling to ground.

On the other hand, Metro Manila and several provinces in Luzon recently experienced water shortage for domestic use and irrigation of agriculture lands as the water level in the major dams like Angat, Ipo and San Roque wend down below critical level. As an immediate response, government has to ration and reduce the volume allocated for users and consumers of water. Multiple factors interplayed and contributed to this problem and one of them is the worsening condition of the forest cover in the watershed areas of these dams negatively impacting the water retentions capacity of the forest.

We experienced a paradox where we experience water shortage during dry season and flash floods during wet season. This is primary due to denudation of our forest cover.

As an appropriate solution to this problem, reforestation has become a major and priority concern of the state through the National Greening Program (NGP) which was previously launched by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Nevertheless, reforestation should also be the concern of every citizen and residents alike.

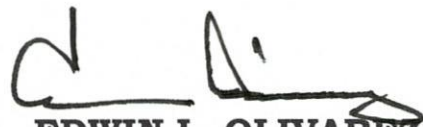
As an effort of every citizen to help in the reforestation crusade of the state, this measure requires the planting of two (2) trees for every child born of a couple, one of tree for the father and another tree for the mother.

The number of trees to be planted as a result of this bill will be very significant and it will effectively supplement the 1.5 billion trees to be planted by the DENR through its NGP, taking into account the thousands of babies that are born and Human Development Report statistics almost 2 million babies are born in the Philippines every year. 166,667 every month and 5,556 everyday; thereby assuring no less than 4 million trees yearly.

Furthermore, it will serve to develop the people's awareness of the need for reforestation and encourage tree planting as part of the family's concern and responsibility, hereby reviving the Filipino tradition- whereby parents, as a sign of love and care for their children, plant tree for them; and in turn, their children will take care of these trees as a sign of love, respect and as living memories for their parents.

To ensure compliance with this compulsory measure, the couple is required to execute a Joint Affidavit of Compliance sworn to before the Punong Barangay of the place where they reside, or the appropriate legal officer of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) or Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in the area where they reside. Thereafter, this joint-affidavit shall be submitted to the Civil Registrar's Office of the Municipality or City where the birth of the child should be registered as a requirements for the release of the child's Certificate of Live Birth.

This proposal has been deliberated and was unanimously approved on 3rd Reading during the 18th Congress and I hope that this bill will get the support of my colleagues in this 19th Congress.



EDWIN L. OLIVAREZ

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AN ACT
REQUIRING PARENTS TO PLANT TWO (2) TREES FOR EVERY
CHILD BORN TO THEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the
“Family Tree Planting Act”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the declared policy of
the state to protect and advance the right of the Filipino people to a
balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and
harmony of nature. Towards this end, the state shall promote and
pursue reforestation program and encourage tree planting as part of
the family’s responsibility and legacy to protect the environmental
and conserve our natural resources for the future generation.

Section 3. Mandatory Tree Planting – All parents residing in
the Philippines whether legally married or not, shall be required to

plant two (2) trees for every child born to them. These trees shall be planted within the premises of their own home or in an area to be designated by the Barangay Council where they reside, with the approval of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The planted species should be appropriate to the location, climate and topography of the area, with preference for the planting of indigenous species and fruit-bearing trees.

Section 4. *Provision of Seedlings.* – The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), in partnership with local government units (LGUs) throughout the Philippines, shall maintain a seedling bank that will serve as a ready source of seedlings to be provided to parents planting the tree under this Act.

Section 5. *Tree Planting as a Requirement for Birth Certificate Release.* – To ensure compliance with this Act, the local Civil Registry where the birth of the child shall be registered, must only release the Certificate of Live Birth of the child upon the presentation of parents' sworn statement of compliance. The affidavit must be sworn to before the Punong Barangay if the trees were planted within the premises of the barangay; or before the DENR office concerned if the trees were planted in a government-designated area outside the barangay where the family resides. Planting of the trees must be done within thirty (30) days after the child's birth.

Section 6. Appropriations. The DENR Secretary shall include in the Department's program the implementing of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The DENR shall, in consultation with the DA, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) promulgate the implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act.

Section 8. Separability Clause. Should any portion or provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid by competent court, the other portion or provision hereof will remain in full force and effect.

Section 9. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, executive orders letters of implementation, rules and regulation or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, superseded or amended accordingly.

Section 10. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in newspaper of general circulation

Approved,