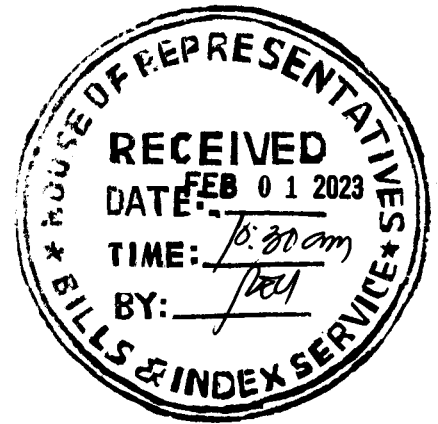




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. 7023



INTRODUCED BY REP. JOSE "BONG" J. TEVES, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Tree planting activities have enormous environmental benefits. It helps fight climate change, prevent natural calamities, and make the air we breathe clean. These activities are essential as we combat the issue of deforestation in our country. Despite the presence of log ban and environmental protection laws, forest loss persists in the Philippines. From 2003 to 2015, hundreds of thousands of hectares of forest loss in different regions in the country were reported.¹

Meanwhile, in order to address the issue on forest loss in our country, this measure seeks to task the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, other government agencies, and non-government organizations to establish a National Tree Planting Program in order to curb the continuing loss of forest cover in our country.

This is in consonance with the Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Constitution which requires 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.

¹ <https://www.rappler.com/environment/hectares-land-philippines-forested/#:~:text=GFW%20data%20from%202002%20to,every%20year%20during%20his%20term.>

Likewise, a similar measure through House Bill 9190 was filed during the 18th Congress by Rep. Angelo Marcos Barba.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' with a horizontal stroke, followed by a circular flourish.

HON. JOSE "BONG" J. TEVES, JR.
Representative, TGP Party-List



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INTRODUCED BY REP. JOSE “BONG” J. TEVES, JR.

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING QUARTERLY TREE PLANTING ACTIVITY IN THE
PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR 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 “National Quarterly Tree Planting Act”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the 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 by encouraging people to actively participate in tree planting programs and activities for the preservation and conservation of our natural land resources.

SECTION 3. National Tree Planting Program. – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd),

Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Civil Service Commission (CSC), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and other relevant government agencies, shall establish and implement a National Tree Planting Program which shall mobilize all sectors of society to participate in nationwide tree planting activities to promote, protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology.

SECTION 4. Components of the National Tree Planting Program. – The Program shall be consistent with existing environmental protection laws and shall include the following:

- a. Volunteerism and participation of both public and private sectors;
- b. Identification of underlying drivers of deforestation;
- c. Formulation of strategic initiatives to identify ideal tree planting sites and species;
- 9190
- d. Operationalization of online, real-time updates of Tree Planting Programs and Activities;
- e. Generation of data for tree planting programs and activities, and other related statistics;
- f. Prompt submission of Tree Planting Participation Report and/or updates to include the number of volunteers, local government unit participation and total number of trees planted as well as its types;
- g. Strengthening reforestation and tree planting program information drive; and
- h. Periodic evaluation of the Program to effectively manage, address and reduce the threats of degradation of our natural resources and forests for the benefit of present and future generations.

SECTION 5. Tree Planting Days. – National tree planting programs and activities shall be regularly held once every quarter without prejudice to the tree planting programs and activities of local government units, private individuals or entities.

SECTION 6. Selection of Tree Planting Sites. – The DENR, in coordination with the DILG and all concerned local government units, shall select the sites for tree planting activities.

SECTION 7. Selection of Tree types. – The DENR shall determine what types or kinds of trees are to be planted in a Tree Planting Site which will ultimately serve that best interest of the natural environment.

SECTION 8. Role of Local Government Units. – All local government units (LGUs) shall monitor the conduct of tree planting activities and ensure the active participation of their constituents. The LGUs shall likewise submit to the DILG and DENR participation reports.

SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR, in consultation with the concerned government agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations of this Act.

SECTION 10. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the DENR under the General Appropriations Act (GAA). Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the GAA.

SECTION 11. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 12. Repealing Clause. – Any provision of law, decree, order, rule or regulation inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,