



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. **8524**



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE NELSON L. DAYANGHIRANG**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

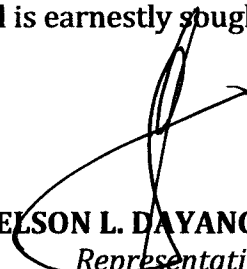
The Province of Davao Oriental boasts of diverse natural tourist spots and is home to a wide array of natural resources. However, its abundant natural wealth is under threat from both natural disasters and man-made activities. Global Forest Watch, an initiative of the World Resources Institute that provides data and tools for monitoring forests in near real-time, estimates that the Province of Davao Oriental lost 9.99kha of humid primary forest between 2002 to 2021.

From this figure alone, it is evident that the protection and preservation of Davao Oriental's forests requires collaboration and coordination between the national and local government. As part of this effort, this representation proposes the establishment of community forests in the Municipalities of Baganga, Boston, Caraga, Cateel, Manay, and Tarragona in the First District of Davao Oriental.

A communal forest refers to a tract of forest land set aside by the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upon the recommendation of the concerned local government unit (LGU) for the use of the residents of a city or municipality. The residents of the city or municipality may then cut, collect, and remove forest products for their personal use in accordance with existing laws and regulations and subject to the provision that utilization of resources therein shall be in accordance with sustainable development.

The establishment of communal forests will empower the residents and local communities in the First District of Davao Oriental to take a more active role in the responsible use, conservation, and management of their municipality's forest resources. Further, as the DENR will be mandated to provide technical assistance to the concerned LGUs in all facets of forest management planning, both the LGUs and local communities will be equipped with the necessary training and knowledge to ensure that their communal forests will be utilized in a sustainable manner and conserved through replanting activities.

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



NELSON L. DAYANGHIRANG
Representative
1st District, Davao Oriental



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1 **AN ACT**

2 **ESTABLISHING COMMUNAL FORESTS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BAGANGA,**
3 **BOSTON, CARAGA, CATEEL, MANAY, AND TARRAGONA IN THE FIRST DISTRICT**
4 **OF DAVAO ORIENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

5
6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
7 *assembled:*

8
9 **SEC. 1. Short Title.** – There shall be established, under the supervision of the
10 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), community forests in
11 the Municipalities of Baganga, Boston, Caraga, Cateel, Manay, and Tarragona in the
12 Province of Davao Oriental.

13
14 The DENR shall determine the size and specific limits of the community forest
15 to be established within each of the municipalities concerned.

16
17 Each established community forest shall be identified in accordance with a
18 Forest Land Use Plan, consistent with the municipality's land use plan, and all existing
19 and related plans, programs and projects of the province and national government.

20
21 **SEC. 2.** The DENR shall, within two (2) years after the determination and
22 establishment of the community forests, transfer the management of the same to the
23 local government unit (LGU) concerned through a memorandum of agreement. It

1 shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel
2 on the management, utilization and conservation of community forests,

3
4 The DENR shall, in coordination with the concerned LGU, undertake a forest
5 resource inventory in each of the barangays, determine the sustainable level of forest
6 resource utilization and provide the LGU technical assistance in all facets of forest
7 management planning. To ensure the sustainability of the community forests, the
8 management plan shall include the necessary replanting activities by the
9 communities and the LGUs.

10
11 **SEC. 3.** The DENR Secretary shall include in the Department's program the
12 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual
13 General Appropriations Act.

14
15 The LGU concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in
16 an amount deemed appropriate for the management, utilization, and conservation of
17 the community forests.

18
19 **SEC. 4.** Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the DENR
20 Secretary shall issue the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of
21 this Act.

22
23 **SEC. 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
24 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

25
26 Approved,