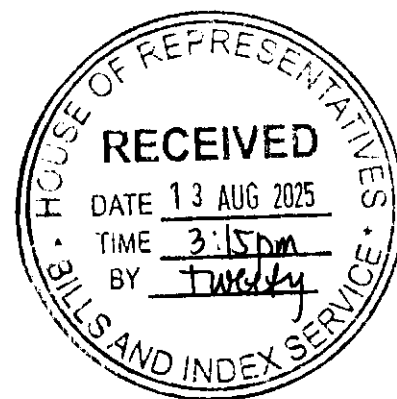


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3702



Introduced by Rep. Sittie Aminah Q. Dimaporo and Rep. Imelda Quibranza Dimaporo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish an arboretum in the campus of the Mindanao State University-Lanao del Norte Agricultural College in Barangay Ragain, Municipality of Sultan Naga Dimaporo to be known as the MSU-LNAC Arboretum.

An arboretum is an area devoted to specimen planting of woody plants which are either trees or shrubs. Distinct from a forest or park, it is in a sense an outdoor museum of trees. It is a place where many varieties of trees and shrubs are grown for research, educational, and ornamental purposes where trees and other woody plants are cultivated for exhibition.

An arboretum plays an important role in the lives of many people and is a valuable environmental, educational, recreational, and cultural resource for the country. It plays an important role in the area of conservation and preservation of endangered species of trees where they can be protected and propagated to preserve the biological diversity of planet Earth.

Trees help us address climate change by reducing the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. They do this by absorbing carbon dioxide (CO₂), using the carbon (C) to produce sugar for tree growth and releasing the oxygen (O₂) back in the air. As trees grow, they store carbon in their leaves. Planting more trees surely mitigate the effects of climate change – as long as the right trees are planted in the right place. An arboretum is such one right place.

Many services that an arboretum performs for the public at large are too well known to require elaboration. So also is the educational importance of an arboretum attached to a college or university. Perhaps the most important arboretum function from the academe point of view is to provide an outdoor laboratory for scientific studies by faculty, students and residents in dendrology, phenology, botany, environmental studies, photography and other related fields of study. The arboretum will serve as an educational resource for environmental stewardship, the history of the province, the study of trees and other woody plants, and a place of learning and respite for the people of Lanao del Norte. Hence, this bill.

In view of the importance of protecting and conserving endangered tree species and other woody plants, and having a clean and healthy environment, approval of this measure is earnestly requested.



SITTIE AMINAH Q. DIMAPORO
Second District, Lanao del Norte



IMELDA QUIBRANZA DIMAPORO
First District, Lanao del Norte

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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 3702

Introduced by Rep. Sittie Aminah Q. Dimaporo and Rep. Imelda Quibranza Dimaporo

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY-LANAO DEL NORTE
AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE ARBORETUM IN BARANGAY RAMAIN,
MUNICIPALITY OF SULTAN NAGA DIMAPORO, PROVINCE OF LANAO DEL
NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby established an arboretum of one hundred (100) hectares within the site reserved for the Mindanao State University-Lanao del Norte Agricultural College (MSU-LNAC) in Barangay Ragain, Municipality of Sultan Naga Dimaporo, Province of Lanao del Norte, to be known as the MSU-LNAC Arboretum.

For purposes of this Act, the term *Arboretum* refers to a reserved area which is essentially for a well-grown and representative collection of tree or shrub species planted and maintained for purposes of scientific study and maintaining a convenient source of seed and herbarium materials.

SECTION 2. The MSU-LNAC Arboretum shall serve the following purposes:

a) To aid in the study and teaching of dendrology, phenology, botany, biology, and other related fields of study by being utilized as an outdoor laboratory by faculty and students of nearby schools;

- b) To be a sanctuary for the preservation and conservation of genetic resources of trees and shrubs, and as a model for environmentally sound landscape management;
- c) To be a nursery within which the best species of indigenous woody plants can be propagated and where new species can be introduced;
- d) To be a place for recreation where people can renew their affinity with nature and thus be more conscious of their responsibility as stewards and guardians of the natural environment; and
- e) To serve as the habitat for a variety of amphibians, reptiles, birds, small mammals, and other wildlife in the area.

SECTION 3. The layout and design of the arboretum shall conform with the National Greening Program (NGP) planting design in terms of specimen, plant distribution, or spacing allocation in the planting sites, based on Executive Order No. 193, series of 2015, entitled, “Expanding the Coverage of the National Greening Program”:

- a) Planting shall be by group or cluster species by family. A minimum of two hundred (200) saplings representing at least fifty (50) different native and endemic tree species must be planted, in 10 meters x 10 meters spacing or closer, depending on the species, in open two (2) hectare area without disturbance to the existing patches of trees or vegetation;
- b) Coordinates of all planted species shall be determined, and all species shall be charted and mapped; and

c) Each sapling which must be: at least three (3) meters in height, labeled and tagged using recycled soft drink tin cans or sturdier materials with consecutive numbers, corresponding common names and scientific names, and secured by a nylon string for identification. A permanent marker with the same information in the species tag shall likewise be placed in front of every sapling.

SECTION 4. To ensure the growth of the species to be planted, the following shall be observed:

a) Tree species should be of high quality, the selection of which should be made at least twelve (12) months prior to planting, in consultation with the nearest Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);

b) Proper site preparation should be done prior to planting, which shall include brushing or slashing, staking, digging of holes, plowing and cultivation; and

c). Planting should be done at the onset of the rainy season.

SECTION 5. The MSU-LNAC Arboretum shall be managed by the PENRO which will be responsible in the implementation, monitoring, and maintenance of the different activities in collaboration with its partners from the private sector, local government units, and institutions or peoples' organizations.

SECTION 6. A Monitoring Committee is hereby created to oversee the development and operation of the MSU-LNAC Arboretum. It shall be composed of the following:

1) DENR Secretary or a duly designated representative, as chairperson;

2) Provincial Governor of the Province of Lanao del Norte or a duly designated representative, as co-chairperson;

3) Mayor of the Municipality of Sultan Naga Dimaporo, Province of Lanao del Norte, as vice-chairperson;

4) President of the League of Municipal Mayors of Lanao del Norte, or the Vice-President thereof, if the Mayor of the Municipality of Sultan Naga Dimaporo, Province of Lanao del Norte is the President of the League, as member;

5) Chancellor or Head of the MSU-LNAC as member; and

6) One (1) member to be appointed by the DENR Secretary from among three (3) recommendees of the Provincial Governor.

SECTION 7. All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to the MSU for the development and improvement of the MSU-LNAC Arboretum shall be administered solely for the benefit of the MSU-LNAC Arboretum in accordance with the instructions of the donor, or in default thereof, of the MSU-LNAC.

SECTION 8. The Secretary of the DENR shall immediately include in the DENR's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,