

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4105



Introduced by **Pangasinan Fifth District Representative**
HON. RAMON N. GUICO JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

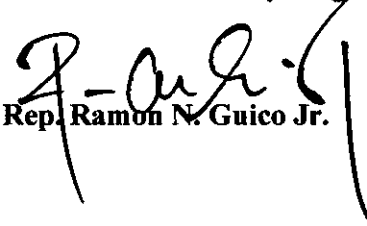
Over the years, the municipality of Binalonan in the Province of Pangasinan has developed into a progressive and inclusive community of self-reliant individuals.

In 1986, the town was awarded by the Malacañang Palace as “The Most Beautiful and Cleanest Town in the Philippines”. Since then, it has garnered several citations such as “Most Beautiful Plaza and Parks”; “Outstanding Community Development Model”; and “Urban Model Community”. These awards were meant to signify the commitment of the municipality to maintain its policy and mission to keep the place as clean and environment-friendly.

True to this commitment, the town center features a four-and-a-half-hectare oasis of green. In the midst of this greenery is a forest of century-old acacia trees. More than an attraction, these majestic canopies are a living witness of the town’s glorious past. Indeed, the acacia trees are a symbol of the indomitable spirit and resolute determination of the people of Binalonan to build a stronger and brighter future.

There is no denying that the acacia trees are a cultural and natural heritage that continues to bridge the past, the present, and the future. Enshrined in the 1987 Constitution is the duty of the State to protect the country’s national patrimony, including its cultural heritage, its properties and history, and the ethnicities of local community. As such, this Act shall provide for the protection, conservation, and development of these majestic acacia trees.

For the above considerations, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


Rep. Ramon N. Guico Jr.

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE ACACIA TREES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BINALONAN,
PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, AS LOCAL HERITAGE TREES AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION. 1. Declaration of Policy.**- It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
2 protect, preserve, and conserve the country's national patrimony, including its natural resources,
3 its cultural heritage, its properties and history, and ethnicities of local communities. Towards this
4 end, the State shall institute measures to protect and conserve heritage trees in the Municipality
5 of Binalonan, Province of Pangasinan.

6 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Acacia Trees as Local Heritage Trees.**- The Acacia trees
7 located in the municipality of Binalonan, Province of Pangasinan, are hereby declared as local
8 heritage trees based on the criteria established by the Department of Environment and Natural
9 Resources (DENR) and shall be conferred special status by the DENR, the municipal
10 government of Binalonan, and other concerned agencies, subject to rules and regulations
11 governing the protection, preservation, and conservation of heritage trees.

12 Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DENR shall, in coordination with
13 the local government unit (LGU) of the Municipality of Binalonan, and the Province of
14 Pangasinan, identify the location, number, and estimated age of acacia trees that are covered
15 under this Act.

16 **SEC. 3. Protection, Preservation, Conservation, and Management Plan.**- The
17 management, protection, preservation, and conservation of the local heritage trees in the
18 Municipality of Binalonan shall be done in an inclusive and sustainable manner. Pursuant
19 thereto, the DENR and the Municipal Government of Binalonan, Province of Pangasinan shall
20 prepare the protection, preservation, and conservation plan of the Acacia heritage trees within
21 one (1) after the effectivity of this Act. The plan shall likewise include the mandate of the
22 agencies involved, conservation and protection goals, strategies and measures to be undertaken
23 within specified time periods.

24 **SEC. 4. Appropriations.**— The Secretary of the DENR and the Municipal Government
25 of Binalonan shall immediately include in the Department’s programs the implementation of this
26 Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual general appropriations.

27 The LGUs concerned, in consultation with the DENR, may set aside from any available
28 local revenue an amount deemed appropriate for the implementation of this Act.

29 **SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.**— Within ninety (90) days from the
30 effectivity of this Act, the DENR shall, in consultation with the local government of the
31 Municipality of Binalonan and the provincial government of Pangasinan, issue the necessary
32 rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

33 **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.**— All other laws, ordinances, orders, rules, regulations and
34 other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed,
35 amended, or modified accordingly.

36 **SEC. 7. Separability Clause.**— If any part or provision of this Act is declared
37 unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and
38 effect.

39 **SEC. 8. Effectivity.**— This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
40 publication in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,