

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4837



Introduced by the Hon. Dibu S. Tuan

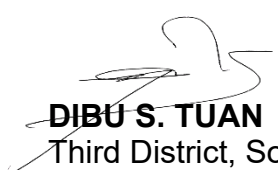
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to commemorate the creation of the Municipality of T'boli in the Province of South Cotabato through the conduct of tree-planting activities on March 5 of every year, its foundation anniversary.

It was on March 5, 1974 that Presidential Decree (P.D.) No. 407 was issued by then President Ferdinand E. Marcos creating the Municipality of T'boli in the Province of South Cotabato. Carved out of 11 barrios and several settlements from 7 different municipalities (Banga, Kiamba, Maasim, Polomolok, Surallah, Maitum and Tupi), the newly-created local government unit of T'boli was a response to petitions and resolutions for self-government and cultural preservation of the various ethnic groups in the area, more particularly, the T'bolis, who are the primary inhabitants of the area.

The choice of tree-planting program to mark the founding anniversary of the municipality is brought about by a province-wide ecological awareness and pride among the people of South Cotabato. For one, located in the Municipality of T'boli is Lake Holon within Mount Parker. The lake was declared as the cleanest inland body of water in the entire country in 2003 and 2004. Secondly, the City of Koronadal, also in South Cotabato, celebrates annually a tree-growing festival. These facts, among others, go to show that environmental consciousness is "part of the DNA" of the people of South Cotabato.

In view of the foregoing considerations, the swift approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


DIBU S. TUAN

Third District, South Cotabato

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

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AN ACT

COMMEMORATING THE FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF T'BOLI IN THE PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO BY CONDUCTING TREE PLANTING ACTIVITIES EVERY YEAR ON MARCH 5

SECTION 1. March 5 of every year is hereby declared as "Municipality of T'boli Foundation Day," in commemoration of the creation of the Municipality of T'boli in the Province of South Cotabato through Presidential Decree (P.D.) No. 407 dated March 5, 1974.

SEC. 2. To ensure the meaningful observance and celebration of the Municipality of T'boli Foundation Day, all government offices and instrumentalities as well as the private sector shall afford sufficient time and opportunity for their officials and employees to engage and participate in tree-planting activities on March 5 of every year.

The barangay officials and deputized nongovernmental organizations shall be responsible for the maintenance of the trees so planted.

SEC. 3. The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) shall supply and distribute the seedlings to the Municipal Government of T'boli for the tree planting program.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall identify the appropriate species of trees and plants to be planted, as well as the corresponding suitable areas to be planted to.

SEC. 4. In coordination with the municipal and barangay governments in T'boli and government and private media organizations, public and private schools at all levels in the municipality shall organize ecological consciousness-raising awareness activities, particularly on the importance of trees.

SEC. 5. The local sanggunian shall provide for the allocation of resources pertinent to the implementation of this Act at their respective local government level.

SEC. 6. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,