



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

20th CONGRESS
2nd Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10394**



Introduced by Representative SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA

AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL GRADUATING SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS TO PLANT TEN (10)
MANGROVE TREES EACH FOR COASTAL ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

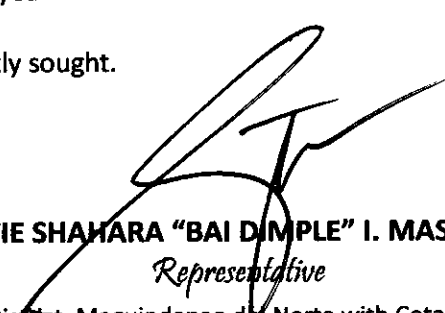
The Philippines has one of the most diverse coastal plant communities in the world, home to fifty percent (50%) of the world's mangrove species, with sixty-five (65) known species distributed throughout the archipelago.

The significance of mangroves to both humans and marine organisms cannot be overstated. Despite this importance, mangrove forests faced serious problems in the last twenty (20) years, with at least one-third, conservatively, lost to overutilization by coastal dwellers, land reclamation, land conversion to agricultural lands, salt ponds, deforestation, aquaculture, industrialization, and rapid urbanization.

This scenario has seriously compromised the critical role of mangroves as a unique habitat for aquatic organisms of economic and ecological importance to communities, and undermined mangroves' ability to protect inland ecosystems from tsunamis, tidal waves, and flash floods.

This bill seeks to promote mangrove reforestation among students by requiring graduating them to plant at least ten (10) mangrove tree seedlings every year.

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


SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA
Representative

Lone District, Maguindanao del Norte with Cotabato City



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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 the "*Young People's Mangrove Reforestation Legacy Act*".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Principles. – It is the declared policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the Filipino people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Towards this end, the State shall promote and pursue mangrove reforestation programs and encourage planting of mangroves as a means to involve the youth in public and civic affairs.

SEC. 3. Mangrove Planting as a Mandatory Requisite for Graduation. – As an act of public service before their inclusion in the country's labor force, all graduating students in senior high school and college, except those who are physically handicapped and students with special needs, shall plant ten (10) mangrove trees each as a prerequisite for graduation.

SEC. 4. Mangrove Planting Sites. – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the concerned local government units (LGUs) shall determine the appropriate mangrove planting sites within their respective territorial jurisdiction, in coordination with schools, colleges, and universities.

SEC. 5. Preference for Indigenous Species. – The species of mangroves to be planted should be appropriate to the location, climate, and topography of the area, with preference for the planting of indigenous species.

SEC. 6. *Partner Agencies, Stakeholders and Their Responsibilities.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall implement the provisions of this Act, in partnership with the following agencies:

- (a) DENR
- (b) Department of Agriculture (DA)
- (c) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
- (d) Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
- (e) National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)

The responsibilities of these agencies shall include:

- (1) Establishment of mangrove nurseries and seedling preparation
- (2) Site identification and preparation
- (3) Technical support and extension services; and
- (4) Monitoring and evaluation

SEC. 7. *Provision of Mangrove Seedlings.* – The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of the DENR and the DA, in partnership with LGUs throughout the Philippines, shall maintain a seedling bank that will serve as a ready source of seedlings.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd and CHED shall, in coordination with the DENR and DILG, and in consultation with other agencies, promulgate and issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the departments and agencies concerned. Thereafter, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

The LGU concerned may set aside funds from any local revenue an amount deemed appropriate for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Separability clause.* – Should any portion or provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, or administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly,

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.