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SENATE
S. NO. 3302

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV


Explanatory Note

Agroforestry system, which is widely adopted worldwide, can be advantageous over conventional agricultural and forest production methods through increased productivity, economic benefits, social outcomes and the ecological goods and services provided. Following this trend, the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, with the participation of various sectors, developed the institution of a one-year Diploma in Agroforestry. Moreover, through the concerted effort of various government agencies, academic institutions and non-government organizations, promising agroforestry systems and technologies for the uplands were developed in the country.

Thus, this bill seeks to expand the coverage of prior programs and activities as regards agroforestry through the establishment and execution of agroforestry programs in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) and State Colleges and Universities (SUCs) in the provincial level. The presence of such shall provide for educational programs, supports research, and promotes collaboration among organizations concerned with sustaining forested areas and enhancing the degraded ecological areas in the provinces.

Further, this bill seeks to tap the direct involvement of students, communities and other agencies in reforesting the uplands through agroforestry in selected provinces. Through this Act, the partnership of the SUCs/HEIs with community-based organization and local government units shall harmoniously promote agroforestry as means of forest restoration and increase the availability of timber in the market. With agroforestry, farmers gain a means of livelihood and environmental services are provided.

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

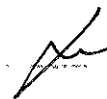

ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND EXECUTION OF AGROFORESTATION
PROGRAMS IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE PROVINCES

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

ARTICLE I
TITLE AND POLICIES

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "Ten-Year Higher Education
2 Agroforestation Development Head Act of 2009".

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4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of State Policies.***-

5 1. The State in pursuance to the constitutional mandate of conserving the patrimony of the nation
6 shall enhance the agroforestation of the degraded ecological setting (the uplands, lowlands, and
7 coastal resources) by authorizing relevant State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and other
8 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in selected provinces in the Philippines to undertake a ten
9 (10) - year Agroforestation Development Program starting first at their unutilized or idle land
10 resources and expanding to adjacent communities.

11 2. The State shall likewise ensure through this Act, the Operationalization of Section (8) (5) of
12 R.A. No. 7722 (The Higher Education Act of 1994) which gives power to the Commission on
13 Higher Education (CHED) to direct or redirect purposive research and development by
14 institutions of higher learning to meet the needs of agro-industrialization and development.

1 **ARTICLE II**
2 **THE TEN- YEAR HIGHER EDUCATION AGROFORESTATION DEVELOPMENT**
3 **PROGRAM**
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5 **SEC. 3. *Purpose, Scope and Coverage of Development.***

6 1. For purposes of this Act, a ten (10)-year Higher Education Agroforestation Development
7 (HEAD) program in selected provinces in the Philippines shall be established with the assistance
8 of other government and non-government agencies or organizations that may be identified by the
9 HEI in the province subjected to the program, who shall act as the lead unit in planning,
10 implementing and evaluating the program in accordance with the following objectives:

11 a. To enhance the agroforestation of degraded ecosystem in selected provinces of the
12 country particularly the idle/ unutilized land resources of HEI and their adjacent communities in
13 collaboration with other government and non-government institutions:

14 b. To translate the HEIs Agroforestry Research and Development into agroforestry
15 entrepreneurial technologies and promote agro-industrialization development, conservation of
16 the environment, poverty reduction and socioeconomic upliftment of the affected people and
17 communities;

18 c. To upgrade the HEIs and improve the delivery of quality of higher education in their
19 respective service areas through a sustained agroforestry income generating projects.

20 2. All HEIs particularly the SUCs who are members of the Philippine Agroforestry Education
21 and Research Network (PAFERN) having an existing agroforestry education and related
22 activities or have the potential to engage in agroforestry extension and development services
23 shall be the priority under this program. Other qualified HEIs which may apply and submit a
24 project proposal to undertake agroforestation in collaboration with organizations such as the non-
25 government organizations and local government units, to adopt a community maybe covered and
26 supported under this Act.

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ARTICLE III
MECHANISM OF IMPLEMENTATION

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SEC. 4. *Organization and Management.*

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1. The CHED, through the HEAD Taskforce, shall administer this program and be responsible in the effective over-all implementation of this Act. It shall organize the necessary instrumentalities, set policies of the program and submit progress and completion reports to the Congress. The budgetary support for the operational expenses of the Task Force shall be drawn from the Higher Education Development Fund administered by the CHED under Section 10 of R.A. No. 7722 and its personnel services shall be from the regular appropriation of CHED.

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2. Upon approval of this Act, the CHED and other identified HEIs shall mobilize itself to organize the implementation of this Act and all other preparations, planning and other activities concomitant to the implementation of the program shall be charge to their respective institutional current operational expenditures.

3. All the HEIs approved for inclusion and funding in this program shall develop a ten (10)- year detailed implementation rolling plan in agroforestation and submit reports to the CHED and their accomplishments indicating the impact of the program on conservation, environment and socio-economic upliftment of the affected people and the communities.

SEC. 5. *Funding Mechanisms.* - In support of this Act the following funding mechanism shall be allocated:

1. Effective on the calendar year 2010, all qualified and identified SUCs under the PAFERN shall be allocated an amount of one million pesos (Php1,000,000) additional budgetary grants annually for the next ten (10) years to implement the program which shall be treated as a revolving trust fund for the organization, implementation and business operation of the agroforestation program.

1 2. Other provincial HEIs having agroforestry related activities approved to be part of this
2 program shall also receive a grant of not more than one million pesos (Php 1,000,000) and yearly
3 thereafter based on their proposed project to be treated as a revolving trust fund.

4 3. All income generated and interest earnings shall be used as follows: fifty (50) percent shall
5 accrue to the funds for the sustenance of the project and/or expansion activities and the
6 remaining fifty (50) percent of the support of the HEIs in improving its facilities/
7 equipment/operation in the delivery of quality education. The focus of which shall be determined
8 by its governing boards.

9 4. The appropriations of this fund shall be included in the General Appropriations Act for ten
10 (10) consecutive years effective fiscal year 2010 until 2020 to be taken from any development
11 funds allocated for agriculture, natural resources and environment.

12 5. Other sources of fund may be tapped by HEIs from the National Anti-Poverty Commission
13 (NAPC), Quedan Rural Credit and Guarantee Corp. (Quendancor), local and foreign donors, the
14 internal revenue allotments of LGUs involved in this program and from the partnership with the
15 private industry.

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17 **SEC. 6. HEIs Governing Boards' Approval.** - The detailed strategic and operational
18 plans and its effective implementation as well as the hiring of staff, experts and consultants shall
19 upon the recommendation of the President of HEI, be approved or decided upon by the
20 respective governing boards of the HEIs in accordance to their corporate powers as defined in
21 Section 4 of R.A. No. 8292.

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23 **SEC.7. Repealing Clause.** Any laws, decrees, ordinances or rules and regulations which
24 are inconsistent with or contrary to the provision of this Act is hereby amended or repealed.

1 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected hereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

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4 **SEC. 9. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
5 publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,