



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

'17 FEB 14 P4 :09

RECEIVED BY:

SENATE

S.B. No. 1328

Introduced by Senator **SONNY ANGARA**

**AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR THE URBAN AND COUNTRYSIDE GREENING  
IN THE PHILIPPINES**

In support of and complementary to the National Greening Program of the government, this bill seeks to ensure the sufficient greenery in the urban and countryside by making it mandatory to plant trees in urban and countryside parks, as well as, in school grounds, vacant lots and other urbanized sites all over the country.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has almost 300 nurseries distributed all over the country. Other national and local agencies have more than 800 nurseries, which provide seedlings nationwide. Despite the efforts of various government institutions, the number of trees and forest areas in our country is still fast depleting.

The Philippines was once known for its vast and lush forests. Over the last 15 years, the environmental situation of the country has undergone a transformation. In 1990, forests covered 35.5 percent of the country's land area. By 2005, the number dropped to 24 percent. The Philippines' rate of deforestation from 2000-2005 is 2.1 percent, the highest in the Southeast Asian region. This bill aims to improve the country's environmental conditions by building, developing and maintaining forests parks in local areas, educational institutions and public roads; promoting environmental consciousness among the Filipinos, and protecting the existing trees from further harm.

This proposed measure will establish a National Greening Committee to be headed by the Secretary of the Department of Environment and National Resources. To guarantee the proper nationwide implementation of the programs, the respective secretaries of the other departments such as the Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and Department of Agriculture will serve as the committee's members. Among the dealings the committee has to undertake are the strict implementation of the requirements of the tree planting along national roads and mandatory planting of trees in urban and countryside parks, public vacant lots and other permissible areas.

Finally, this bill protects existing trees and plants by prohibiting cutting and destroying without the necessary permit. The penalties against violations have been included and specified.

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




**SONNY ANGARA**



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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known and cited as the “**Greening Act of 2017.**”

2

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – Recognizing the vital role of trees in ecological  
4 stability, it is hereby declared the national policy to ensure sufficient greenery in urban  
5 and countryside and to promote the right of the people to enjoy the benefits of a  
6 balanced and healthy ecology.

7

8 **SEC. 3. Scope.** – This Act shall apply to all barangays, municipalities, cities and  
9 provinces.

10

11 **SEC. 4. Objectives.** – Pursuant to the policy declared herein, it is the objective of this  
12 Act:

13

14 a. To build, develop and maintain forest parks in provincial, city and municipal  
15 plazas, elementary school grounds and by the planting of trees in national,  
16 provincial, municipal or barangay roads and other public open spaces where  
17 appropriate;

18

19 b. To require from the national agencies and local government units the planting  
20 of trees and shrubbery in specified areas;

21



- 1 c. To promote environmental consciousness among the community members,  
2 i.e. students, youth, other civic action groups, by encouraging active  
3 participation in tree-planting activities; and  
4  
5 d. To protect trees from various human activities.  
6

7 **SEC. 5. National Greening Committee.** – A National Greening Committee is hereby  
8 created with the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
9 (DENR) as Chairperson and the respective Secretaries of the Department of Public  
10 Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Interior  
11 and Local Government (DILG), Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department  
12 of Agriculture (DA), as members.  
13

14 The National Greening Committee shall have the power to promulgate the  
15 pertinent rules and regulations as may be necessary to fully implement the objectives  
16 and purposes of this Act within a period not later than ninety (90) days after the  
17 approval of this Act.  
18

19 It shall have the power to rule on dispute involving the Regional Greening  
20 Committee created under Section 6 and to appoint or form an ad-hoc committee when  
21 the Regional Greening Committee is unable to perform its duties.  
22

23 The National Greening Committee also convenes every quarter to hear the  
24 reports or performance from the Regional Greening Committee.  
25

26 **SEC. 6. Regional Greening Committee.** – A Greening Committee for every region in  
27 the country, in cooperation with the various local government offices, is hereby created  
28 to initiate and oversee all the tree-planting activities to be done in barangays,  
29 municipalities, cities and provinces in the respective regions.  
30

31 The Regional Director representing the Secretary of the Department of  
32 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the lead official of the concerned local  
33 government unit (LGU) shall both serve as Co-Chairpersons of the Committee.  
34 Members of the Committee, representing the respective secretaries, will be the regional  
35 directors of the Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Interior and Local  
36 Government (DILG), Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of  
37 Agriculture (DA) and at most three (3) representatives from civic action groups  
38 appointed by the Chairperson.

1 The Regional Greening Committee shall coordinate with all the concerned  
2 government agencies, non-governmental organization (NGOs), people's organizations  
3 (POs), and other civic action groups for assistance and cooperation in the  
4 implementation of this Act.

5  
6 **SEC. 7. *Specific Functions of the Executive Departments.*** – Aside from the  
7 Committee responsibilities,

8  
9 a. The DENR shall determine the suitable species of trees and provide seeds or  
10 saplings to be planted along or on major thoroughfares, suited to the kind,  
11 classification, and condition of the area and shall provide technical support  
12 involving tree-planting activities;

13  
14 b. The LGU shall:

15  
16 1. Mobilize all local concerned agencies and communities to ensure  
17 prompt and effective implementation of this Act in every barangay,  
18 municipality, city and province;

19  
20 2. Provide for effective measures and ways for the optimum maintenance  
21 and sustainability of trees and shrubbery;

22  
23 3. Coordinate with the police for the apprehension and with the DOJ for  
24 the prosecution of all persons violating Sections 8 and 9 of this Act;

25  
26 c. The DPWH and DA shall provide the technical support including the  
27 necessary tools, equipment and manpower for the implementation of this Act;

28  
29 d. The DOT shall assist in the conceptualization and site-evaluation and  
30 cooperate in the maintenance of parks and specified areas and provide  
31 additional funding from its resources;

32  
33 e. The DILG shall coordinate the local government units to ensure prompt and  
34 effective implementation of this Act; and,

35  
36 f. The DepEd shall integrate the tree-planting activities into the school  
37 curriculum to raise awareness and to promote environmental consciousness.  
38



1 **SEC. 8. Requirements for Tree Planting along National Roads.** – Projects  
2 concerning to the construction and development of national roads shall comply with the  
3 following standard requirements:

- 4
- 5 a. The trees that will be planted along the national roads shall be of the varieties  
6 of the root systems which grow downward rather than sideward to avoid road  
7 and sidewalk slabs destruction;
- 8
- 9 b. Trees shall be planted in a neat row, within the road right-of-way (ROW) and  
10 as close as possible to the ROW limit, with sufficient allowance so that fully  
11 grown trees will not encroach on the adjoining property or touch electric and  
12 other overhead utility lines;
- 13
- 14 c. The center-to-center spacing between trees shall be 10-20 meters (m). For  
15 road sections with a generally north-south alignment, the trees on one side of  
16 the road shall be planted alternately with trees on the other side, thus  
17 ensuring adequate sunlight needed for drying the road;
- 18
- 19 d. For roads without curbs, the trees shall be planted with minimum clear  
20 distance of 0.60 meters beyond the edge of the shoulder, but in no case less  
21 than 0.30 meters from the edge of the pavement;
- 22
- 23 e. For roads with curbs, particularly in urban areas, the trees shall be planted  
24 with a minimum setback of 1.00 meters beyond the face of the curb;
- 25
- 26 f. Where there are longitudinal drainage canals, the trees shall be planted on  
27 the outer side of such canals;
- 28
- 29 g. On roadway curves and intersections, the pertinent design standards on sight  
30 distance shall be concerned;
- 31
- 32 h. Non-traversable hazards (ravine, waiting shed and the like) along the line of  
33 trees shall be provided with appropriate clearly marked barriers so that these  
34 do not pose hazards to motorists; and,
- 35
- 36 i. The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall, within ninety  
37 (90) days after the approval of this Act and every one hundred eighty (180)  
38 days thereafter, submit periodic reports to the National Greening Committee.

1 **SEC. 9. Tree Planting in Urban and Countryside Parks, Public Vacant Lots, and**  
2 **Other Permissible Areas.** – Planting of trees shall be mandatory in urban and  
3 countryside parks as well as in school grounds, vacant lots, and other unutilized sites  
4 identified with the quality of soil where different or certain species of trees can thrive.  
5 This shall apply to all publicly-owned lands, without exempting the properties of  
6 interested private individuals or institutions.

7  
8 a. *Scope.* The areas covered by this provision shall include:

- 9 1. All Public parks in urban and rural areas;
- 10  
11 2. All public school grounds in the city and in the provinces;
- 12  
13 3. All idle public lands in urban and rural areas, unless otherwise  
14 identified to soon be used for other purposes such as agriculture,  
15 infrastructure-building, and others;
- 16  
17 4. Parks, schools and other pieces of land owned private individuals,  
18 organizations, or institutions whose proprietor/s voluntarily and willingly  
19 subject their properties in this Act.

20 b. *General Guidelines.* Tree planting in the duly qualified areas shall comply with  
21 the following general guidelines:

- 22 1. Considering the classification and condition of the soil and the total  
23 land area of the site, suited species of forest trees or fast-growing trees  
24 shall be planned in the identified areas;
- 25  
26 2. In cases wherein multiple trees can be planted, the trees should be  
27 planted in clusters wherein one is not more than four (4) meters apart  
28 from one another;
- 29  
30 3. The Regional Greening Committee shall facilitate and supervise all the  
31 tree-planting activities in its jurisdiction. The government agencies  
32 concerned shall perform their duties and responsibilities as indicated in  
33 Section 7, Specific Functions of the Executive Department, of this Act;
- 34  
35 4. The Regional Greening Committee shall, within ninety (90) days after  
36 the approval of the Act and every one hundred eighty (180) days,  
37 thereafter submit periodic reports to the National Greening Committee.



1 **SEC. 10. *Issuing of Permits.*** – The issuance of permit allowing a person or company  
2 to cut, uproot and in any way, disturb the planted trees given by the DENR should also  
3 be approved and co-signed by the Regional Greening Committee following public  
4 consultations done by and the consensus of the Regional Greening Committee.

5  
6 **SEC. 11. *Prohibited Acts.*** – No cutting and destroying of trees and plants shall be  
7 permitted, except when the cutting and destroying of the same is necessary for public  
8 safety, and subject to the issuance of permits.

9  
10 **SEC. 12. *Persons Liable and Penalties Therefore.*** – Any person who violates  
11 sections 9 and 10 shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than six (6) months to  
12 not more than one (1) year or a fine of not less than three thousand pesos to not more  
13 than ten thousand pesos, or both imprisonment and fine, at the discretion of the court.

14  
15 **SEC. 13. *Submission of Reports.*** – The National Greening Committee shall within  
16 ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act and every one hundred eighty (180) days  
17 thereafter submit periodic reports to both houses of Congress of the Philippines for  
18 evaluation and consideration.

19  
20 **SEC. 14. *Funding.*** – The fund needed for the implementation of this Act shall be taken  
21 from any available appropriation in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of the year of  
22 its implementation; *Provided*, That funds for this purpose shall also be included in every  
23 annual GAA; *Provided, further*, That there shall be equitable and proportionate  
24 appropriations of funds annually for this purpose for all barangays, municipalities, cities,  
25 and provinces. In addition, adequate portion of financial grants and concessional loans  
26 extended to Philippines by foreign governments and multilateral agencies every year,  
27 the amount to be determined by the President, shall be allocated to augment the annual  
28 appropriations until this Act fully implemented.

29  
30 **SEC. 15. *Separability Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, rules and regulations, or parts  
31 thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

32  
33 **SEC. 16. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect upon its publication in at least  
34 two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

35  
36 *Approved,*