



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7361

BY REPRESENTATIVES CAGAS, BULUT-BEGTANG AND CO (E.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 356

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY FORESTS IN THE CITY OF DIGOS AND MUNICIPALITIES OF SULOP, STA. CRUZ, PADADA, MATANAO, MALALAG, MAGSAYSAY, KIBLAWAN, HAGONoy, AND BANSALAN IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL SUR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1.** There shall be established, under the supervision of the Department
2 of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), community forests in the City of Digos
3 and the Municipalities of Sulop, Sta. Cruz, Padada, Matanao, Malalag, Magsaysay,
4 Kiblawan, Hagonoy, and Bansalan in the Province of Davao del Sur.

5 The DENR shall determine the size and specific limits of the community forest to
6 be established within each of the city and municipalities concerned.

7 Each established community forest shall be identified in accordance with a Forest
8 Land Use Plan, consistent with the city's land use plan, and all existing and related plans,
9 programs and projects of the city and national government.

10 **SEC. 2.** The DENR shall, within two (2) years after the determination and
11 establishment of the community forests, transfer the management of the same to the local
12 government unit (LGU) concerned, under the direct supervision of the City Local

1 Environment and Natural Resources Office, through a memorandum of agreement. It
2 shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the
3 management, utilization and conservation of the community forests.

4 The DENR shall, in coordination with the concerned LGU, undertake a forest
5 resource inventory in each of the barangays, determine the sustainable level of forest
6 resource utilization and provide the LGU technical assistance in all facets of forest
7 management planning. To ensure the sustainability of the community forests, the
8 management plan shall include the necessary replanting activities by the communities
9 and the LGUs.

10 **SEC. 3.** The DENR Secretary shall include in the Department's program the
11 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
12 Appropriations Act.

13 The LGU concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an
14 amount deemed appropriate for the management, utilization, and conservation of the
15 community forests.

16 **SEC. 4.** Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the DENR
17 Secretary shall issue the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of
18 this Act.

19 **SEC. 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
20 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,