

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

8 APR 15 11:03:37

**SENATE**

S. No. **2156**

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Forest cover is decreasing in many tropical landscapes following decades of logging, fire and other human disturbances. At the same time, there are large and growing areas of degraded forest lands that need to be rehabilitated to again provide forest goods and services and meet local livelihood needs.

The Philippines, like many other Asian countries, lost its forest cover rapidly through heavy logging, upland migration and agricultural expansion over the last century. The once lush tropical rainforests of the Philippines have experienced extensive deforestation and degradation over the last century. The Philippines has had an unrelenting onslaught on forest resources, leading to its current diminished and degraded state. Up to 59 percent (9.3 million hectares) of the country's official forest lands could be non-forested at present, with grass or shrub cover, or under cultivation.

The country also faces timber shortages and relies on imports to meet a large proportion of its demand. Heavy flooding and landslides occurring almost annually are often attributed to deforestation and fuel calls for halting logging and rehabilitating degraded forest lands.

Given the current state of the Philippines' forest lands and the demands placed on it, rehabilitation has become a major agenda in order to lead this country towards the path of sustainable development. Forest rehabilitation has also been identified as one of the major programs in the "General Program of Actions for the Forestry Sector from 2005-2010", which was recently drafted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

With our denuded forests - and our denuded government coffers - this proposed measure will greatly assist in the rehabilitation of our forests thus saving us from unwanted "man induced" natural calamities such as great floods. This is also a cost effective way of preserving our environment and addressing the environmental problems faced by our country due to the denudation of our forest lands.

Various studies have shown that the planting of trees in our denuded lands have a great impact in reducing the problem of global warming and in reducing the problem of air pollution in our cities and metropolis.

It is in this regard that the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



**MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
 Senator

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

8 APR 15 AM 10:27

**SENATE**

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

S. B. No. **2156**

---

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

---

**AN ACT  
REQUIRING PROBATIONERS TO PLANT AT LEAST THIRTY (30) TREES  
A YEAR AS PART OF THEIR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY, AMENDING  
FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 10 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 968  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PROBATION LAW OF 1998**

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 10 of Presidential Decree No. 968 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 10. Conditions of Probation. - Every probation order issued by the court shall contain conditions requiring that the probationer shall: [(k) Satisfy any other condition related to the rehabilitation of the defendant and not unduly restrictive of his liberty or incompatible with his freedom of conscience.]

**(K) PLANT AT LEAST THIRTY (30) TREES A YEAR AS PART OF HIS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS SHALL BE ACCOMPLISHED UNDER THE STRICT SUPERVISION OF HIS PROBATION OFFICER WHO SHALL CERTIFY TO THE COURT THE COMPLETION OF SAID REQUIREMENT.**

**(L) SATISFY ANY OTHER CONDITION RELATED TO THE REHABILITATION OF THE DEFENDANT AND NOT UNDULY RESTRICTIVE OF HIS LIBERTY OR INCOMPATIBLE WITH HIS FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE."**

**SEC. 2. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason, the other

provisions or their application to other persons or circumstances not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause*** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, regulations and issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

***Approved,***