

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

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 27 P5 05

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 2172

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Introduced by Senator JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

We assure ourselves of one foot anchored firmly in the death hole for every time we destroy one forest.

Various studies and first-hand experiences have taught us time and again that the continuous exploitation of the finite resources of our forests due to intensified logging activities result in catastrophic flashfloods. Examples of such catastrophes are the Ormoc, Mindoro, Davao and Quezon tragedies, and just recently in Dingalan, Aurora.

Ironically, despite the knowledge that unabated deforestation results in siltation, soil erosion and flooding, we still continue to consume the finite resources of our forests in direct violation and apathy in the fact that environmental policies remain unimplemented.

Also, we are seeing and experiencing the catastrophic effects of climate change on us. Climate change is also being attributed largely to deforestation.

Having caused already too much damage to our natural forest reserves, the continuation of activities detrimental to the survival of our forests will have to be abated at the soonest possible time. To prevent more tragedies resulting in this environmental exploitation, this bill seeks to support the government's environmental program by proposing a total logging ban on primary and secondary forests and rainforests for a period of thirty-five (35) years. This is to allow our forests to regenerate and stop their countdown to extinction.

Hence, immediate approval of this bill is requested.

  
JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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S. No. 2172

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**AN ACT  
TO PRESERVE AND REHABILITATE THE FOREST BY BANNING ALL LOGGING  
OPERATIONS IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY GROWTH FORESTS AND  
RAINFORESTS, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE A TASK FORCE FOR THE  
PRESERVATION AND REHABILITATION OF FORESTS, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES**

*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 as the “*Forest Preservation and*  
2 *Rehabilitation Act of 2010.*”  
3

4 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
5 advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the  
6 rhythm and harmony of nature, to protect, conserve and develop the nation’s natural  
7 resources so as to prevent environmental degradation and disaster and preserve the  
8 country’s valuable ecosystem.  
9

10 SECTION 3. *Total Logging Ban.* It shall be unlawful for any person to cut, fell or destroy  
11 any tree or engage in any logging operation, in primary and secondary types of forest,  
12 for a period of thirty-five (35) years from the effectivity of this Act.  
13

14 Commercially planted trees for commercial and/or industrial purposes are  
15 exempted from this ban: *Provided,* that such trees are not located in primary and  
16 secondary forests or rainforests.  
17

18 SECTION 4. *Task Force for the Preservation and Rehabilitation of Forests.* A Task  
19 Force for the Preservation and Rehabilitation of Forests, hereinafter referred to as the  
20 Task Force, shall be formed to implement the provisions of this Act.  
21

1 a) Functions of the Task Force shall:

2  
3 i) formulate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act,  
4 including in such rules and regulations prohibited acts and  
5 penalties for violations thereof;

6 ii) implement, in coordination with respective Local Government Units  
7 and other public and private entities, such as rules and regulations  
8 upon their effectivity for the period specified in the preceding  
9 section of this Act;

10 iii) meet regularly to assess compliance with the rules and regulations;  
11 and

12 iv) perform such other functions in accordance with and necessary to  
13 the implementation of the intent and provisions of this Act.  
14

15 b) Composition – The Task Force shall be composed of the Secretary of the  
16 Department of Environment and Natural Resources as Chairman and the  
17 Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of National  
18 Defense, the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Department  
19 of Agrarian Reform and two (2) representatives from accredited and credible  
20 NGOs with expertise and advocacy on the Environment, and other  
21 appropriate agencies of the government to be determined by the President,  
22 as members. This Task Force shall be organized not later than two (2)  
23 months after the effectivity of this Act.  
24

25 c) The Task Force shall issue the rules and regulations of this Act not later than  
26 one (1) year after its composition. The implementing guidelines shall take  
27 effect fifteen (15) days following their publication in two (2) national  
28 newspapers of general circulation.  
29

30 SECTION 5. *Penalties.* The prison terms provided for the prohibited acts under Chapter  
31 IV of P.D. No. 705, as amended, are hereby increased by one degree higher. The  
32 Indeterminate Sentence Law shall not be applicable to these offenses.  
33

34 SECTION 6. *Appropriation.* The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this  
35 Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its  
36 enactment into law and thereafter.

1 SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its  
2 publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

3

4 Approved,