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

9   MAR -2 /. :'0

SENATE

RECEIVED '''

S. NO. 3107

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV
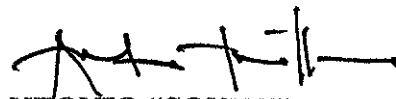

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 16 provides that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. However, recent data prove contrary to the aforementioned policy. Over the last 50 years, 66% of the forests in the Philippines were destroyed - one of the highest deforestation rates in the world.[1] These bleak conditions, compounded by looming climate change issues, call for state measures that involve not only the government but the whole community, as well.

It is in this light that this bill seeks to officially provide a revival of Arbor Day by mandating that all provinces, cities and municipalities with their component barangays to revive, by appropriate proclamation of their respective local chief executives, an Arbor Day at an appropriate fixed date every calendar year as shall be deemed suitable according to the proper time and season for planting trees in the respective provinces and their respective component municipalities or cities concerned.

The first Arbor Day was founded by American journalist J. Sterling Morton over 135 years ago. During the first Arbor Day, more than a million trees were planted in the State of Nebraska. His simple proposal of setting aside a special day for tree planting is now being practiced and celebrated worldwide. By following suit, it is hoped that this measure shall inculcate the value of tree-planting in every citizen and a deeper commitment towards environmental protection.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

---

[1] Information retrieved from: http://www.greenlivingtips.com/pages/Tree-planting-program.html. Retrieved on 16 February 2009.

1

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT
TO PROVIDE THE REVIVAL OF ARBOR DAY BY VESTING IN PROVINCIAL, CITY
AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS WITH THEIR COMPONENT BARANGAYS THE
RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CELEBRATING THE DAY FOR TREE-PLANTING AS AN
ANNUAL EVENT

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

1   SEC. 1. In order to emphasize the imperative necessity for maintaining proper ecological

2   balance, for encouraging the beautification of communities and creating more healthful

3   environments, it is hereby mandated that all provinces, cities and municipalities with their

4   component barangays shall be required to revive, by appropriate proclamation of their respective

5   local chief executives, an Arbor Day at an appropriate fixed date every calendar year as shall be

6   deemed suitable according to the proper time and season for planting trees in the respective

7   provinces and their respective component municipalities or cities concerned. Although adoption

8   of uniform dates for every province and its component municipalities and the cities shall be

9   encouraged, varying dates for Arbor Day celebrations may be permitted in order to afford

10   flexibility in planning and in implementing tree-planting programs to adjust to the proper time

11   and period of the year most suited to the trees selected to be planted, and as local budgetary

12   allotments shall allow.

13

14   SEC. 2. In implementing the intents of this Act, there shall be created in every province,

15   city and municipality an Arbor Day Celebrations Committee, the composition of which shall be

16   selected or designated by the local chief executive concerned. The members of said committee

17   shall preferably consist of officers based in the locality, representing, but not limited to:

1

1   (a) The local Sanggunian;

2   (b) The local Environment and Natural Resources Office;

3   (c) The Department of Environment and Natural Resources;

4   (d) The Department of Education;

5   (e) The Department of the Interior and Local Government;

6   (f) The Department of Agriculture;

7   (g) The Department of Agrarian Reform;

8   (h) The Department of Public Works and Highways;

9   (i) The Department of Tourism;

10   (j) The Philippine National Police;

11   (k) The Armed Forces of the Philippines;

12   (l) The Philippine Coconut Authority;

13   (m) Civic organizations;

14   (n) Youth organizations;

15   (o) Liga ng mga barangays; and

16   (p) Media associations.

17

18   **SEC. 3.** In order to assure active participation of students, out-of-school youths and

19 employees of the government and private sectors, the Arbor Day designated every calendar year

20 by each and every local government unit may be declared as a public holiday and such

21 declaration may be embodied in the appropriate proclamation that local chief executives are in

22 this Act authorized to do.

23

24   **SEC. 4.** The local Sanggunian shall promulgate the rules and regulations, including the

25 allocation of resources pertinent to the implementation of this Act at their respective local

26 government level. For information and monitoring purposes, the respective local government

27 units shall submit to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), copy

28 furnished the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the official date of

29 the specified Arbor Day.

1   **SEC. 5.** The DILG, in coordination with the DENR, shall promulgate the rules and

2   regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

3

4   **SEC. 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in

5   the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

         Approved,