



Senate

Office of the Secretary

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE }
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
First Regular Session }**

'19 DEC 17 P 3 :25

SENATE
S.B. No. 1243

RECEIVED BY

INTRODUCED BY **SENATOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III**

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY-LANAO DEL
NORTE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE ARBORETUM IN BARANGAY
RAMAIN, MUNICIPALITY OF SULTAN NAGA DIMAPORO
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In a survey conducted in 2018, the Philippines ranked third among four countries in the world as most vulnerable to climate change¹. India is at the top of the list, while Pakistan and Bangladesh ranked second and fourth, respectively. Indeed, it has worsened the natural calamities that strike our country these days. Frequent flooding, soil erosion, and landslides resulted in a tremendous loss in terms of property, livelihood, and most of all – lives.

Threats posed by climate change are serious. A way to address and mitigate its harmful effects is to plant more trees. Trees serve as our first line of defense in times of disasters. However, one of the crucial factors to consider is the right species that are native to and can thrive in the intended planting site. Only by doing so, can we fully enjoy its benefits. Otherwise, all efforts shall be futile.

Consistent with the Constitutional mandate to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology², this legislation seeks to establish an arboretum inside the campus of the Mindanao State University-Lanao del Norte Agricultural College in Barangay Ragain, Municipality of Sultan Naga Dimaporo to be known as the MSU-LNAC Arboretum. An arboretum is an area devoted to specimen planting and cultivation of woody

¹ https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/03/21/1798866/climate-change-vulnerability-philippines-ranks-3rd?wpisrc=nl_todayworld&wpmm=1

² Section 16, Article II, 1987 Philippine Constitution

plants which are either trees or shrubs for ecological, research, educational, and recreational purposes.

The MSU-LNAC Arboretum shall serve as an outdoor laboratory for scientific studies by the faculty, and students in dendrology, phenology, forestry, botany, environmental studies, and other related fields of study. Furthermore, it shall be a sanctuary for endemic tree species in the particular region of the Philippines.

Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



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MUNICIPALITY OF SULTAN NAGA DIMAPORO AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. Arboretum Establishment.** – There shall be an
2 establishment of an arboretum with an area of 100 hectares located within the
3 campus of the Mindanao State University-Lanao del Norte Agricultural College
4 (MSU-LNAC) in Barangay Ramain, Municipality of Sultan Naga Dimaporo,
5 Province of Lanao del Norte to be known as the MSU-LNAC Arboretum.

6 For purposes of this Act, **arboretum** shall refer to a reserved area which
7 is essentially for a well-grown and representative collection of trees or shrubs
8 species planted and maintained for the purpose of reference, scientific studies
9 and as a convenient source of seed and herbarium materials.

10 **SECTION 2. Objectives.** – The MSU-LNAC Arboretum shall have the
11 following objectives:

- 12 a) To provide an outdoor laboratory for faculty and students of nearby
13 schools that will aid in the study of dendrology, phenology, forestry,
14 botany, and other related fields of environmental science;
15 b) To preserve and conserve the genetic resources of trees and shrubs, and
16 reuse as a model for environmentally sound landscape management;

- 1 c) To propagate the best species of woody plants and introduce new species
- 2 that can thrive in the locality;
- 3 d) To provide a healthy and conducive space for recreation, appreciation of
- 4 nature, and enhance the environmental consciousness of the community;
- 5 e) To serve as a habitat for a variety of amphibians, reptiles, birds, small
- 6 mammals, and other wildlife in the area.

7 **SECTION 3. *Layout and Design.*** – The layout and design shall be in
8 consideration of the objectives of this Act and the following:

- 9 a) The trees should be planted in rows following the contour of the land
- 10 area;
- 11 b) At least five replicates of each species should be planted to ensure the
- 12 conservation and preservation of the species;
- 13 c) Each tree species should be numbered, labelled and tagged with scientific
- 14 name, common or local name, date and place of collection. In case of
- 15 mortality, the species should be replanted with the appropriate species as
- 16 indicated in the plan.

17 **SECTION 4. *Planting.*** – To ensure the growth of the species to be
18 planted:

- 19 a) The species to be planted should be of high quality materials, and the
- 20 selection of which should be determined at least twelve (12) months prior
- 21 to planting in consultation with the nearest office of the DENR;
- 22 b) Proper site preparation should be done prior to planting, to include
- 23 brushing/slashing, staking, digging of hole, plowing and/or cultivation;
- 24 c) Planting should be done at the onset of the rainy season.

25 **SECTION 5. *Management and Supervision.*** – The Arboretum shall be
26 under the overall management and supervision of the Department of
27 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The DENR Secretary shall appoint
28 a Superintendent of the Arboretum who, together with a staff who should be a
29 representative from the natives in the area, shall ensure the proper
30 management of the Arboretum.

1 **SECTION 6. Oversight Committee.** – There shall be a committee that
2 will oversee and monitor the development and operation of the arboretum, and
3 it shall be composed of the following:

4 1) The DENR Secretary or his duly designated representative as
5 Chairperson;

6 2) The Provincial Governor of the Province of Lanao del Norte or his
7 duly designated representative as co-Chairperson;

8 3) The Mayor of the Municipality of Sultan Naga Dimaporo as Vice-
9 Chairperson;

10 4) The President of the League of Municipal Mayors of Lanao del Norte
11 or the Vice-President thereof if the Mayor of Sultan Naga Dimaporo is the
12 President of the League as member;

13 5) The Chancellor or Head of the MSU-LNAC as member; and

14 6) One (1) member to be appointed by the DENR Secretary from among
15 three (3) nominees as recommended by the Provincial Governor.

16 **SECTION 7. Donations.** – The Arboretum may accept donations from
17 government agencies or units and from private entities, both local and
18 foreign.

19 **SECTION 8. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to implement
20 initially the provisions of this Act shall be taken from the available savings of
21 the DENR. Such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation of
22 the arboretum shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

23 **SECTION 9. Separability Clause.** – In case any provision of this Act is
24 declared invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration shall have no effect in the
25 validity or constitutionality of the remaining provisions hereof.

26 **SECTION 10. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, rules and regulations
27 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended
28 accordingly.

1 **SECTION 11. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
2 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general
3 circulation.

Approved,