



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

'19 DEC 17 P3:27

**SENATE
S.B. No. 1245**

RECEIVED BY

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

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN ARBORETUM WITHIN THE PREMISES OF THE
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
(CENRO) IN BARANGAY POBLACION, MUNICIPALITY OF KOLAMBUGAN,
LANAO DEL NORTE TO BE KNOWN AS THE KOLAMBUGAN
ARBORETUM
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 within the premises of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Barangay Poblacion, Municipality of Kolambugan, Lanao del Norte to be known as the Kolambugan 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&wpmmm=1

² Section 16, Article II, 1987 Philippine Constitution

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

The Kolambugan 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.



VICENTE C. SOTTO III



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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN ARBORETUM IN THE PREMISES OF THE COMMUNITY
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF KOLAMBUGAN, LANA DEL NORTE TO BE KNOWN AS
THE KOLAMBUGAN ARBORETUM 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 within the premises of the Community
3 Environment and Natural Resources Office in the Municipality of Kolambugan,
4 Lanao del Norte to be known as the Kolambugan Arboretum.

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

9 **SECTION. 2. *Objectives.*** – The Kolambugan Arboretum shall have the
10 following objectives:

- 11 a) To provide an outdoor laboratory for faculty and students of nearby
12 schools that will aid in the study of dendrology, phenology, forestry,
13 botany, and other related fields of environmental science
- 14 b) To preserve and conserve the genetic resources of trees and shrubs, and
15 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 of the
8 arboretum should satisfy its objectives and should conform to 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.

16 **SECTION 4. *Planting.*** To ensure the growth of the species to be planted:

- 17 a) The species to be planted should be of high quality materials. They should
18 be properly determined at least (12) months prior to planting in
19 consultation with the nearest office of the DENR;
- 20 b) Proper site preparation should be done prior to planting. This includes
21 brushing/slashing, staking, digging of hole, plowing and/or cultivation.
22 Grasses and other competing vegetation within at least one meter radius
23 around each spot must be cleared;
- 24 c) Planting should be done at the onset of the rainy season.

25

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

1 **SECTION 6. Oversight Committee.** – An Oversight Committee is hereby
2 created to oversee and monitor the development and operation of the arboretum
3 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 representative as co-Chairperson;

8 3) The Mayor of the Municipality of Kolambugan, Lanao del Norte, as
9 Vice-Chairperson;

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

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

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

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

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

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

4
5 *Approved,*