



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

'19 DEC 17 P3:26

**SENATE  
S.B. No. 1244**

RECEIVED BY

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

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**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING AN ARBORETUM WITHIN THE VICINITY OF THE MIGHTY  
CAVE PARK LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAGOLOAN, LANA DEL  
NORTE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE MIGHTY CAVE PARK 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 change<sup>1</sup>. 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 ecology<sup>2</sup>, this legislation seeks to establish an arboretum within the vicinity of the Mighty Cave Park located in the Municipality of Tagoloan, Lanao del Norte. An arboretum is an area devoted to specimen planting and cultivation of woody plants which are either trees or shrubs for ecological, research, educational, and recreational purposes.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/03/21/1798866/climate-change-vulnerability-philippines-ranks-3rd?wpisrc=nl\\_todayworld&wpmm=1](https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2018/03/21/1798866/climate-change-vulnerability-philippines-ranks-3rd?wpisrc=nl_todayworld&wpmm=1)

<sup>2</sup> Section 16, Article II, 1987 Philippine Constitution

The Mighty Cave Park 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.

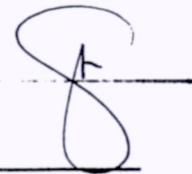
Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**VICENTE C. SOTTO III**

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING AN ARBORETUM WITHIN THE VICINITY OF THE MIGHTY**  
**CAVE PARK LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAGOLOAN, LANA DEL**  
**NORTE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE MIGHTY CAVE PARK 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 with an area of 200 hectares located within the  
3 vicinity of the Mighty Cave Park located in the Municipality of Tagoloan, Lanao  
4 del Norte, to be known as the Mighty Cave Park 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 Mighty Cave Park Arboretum shall have  
10 the 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 use 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
- 14 scientific name, common or local name, and the date and place of collection. In
- 15 case of mortality, the species should be replanted with the appropriate species
- 16 as 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 made at least twelve (12) months prior to
- 21 planting, in consultation with the nearest office of the Department of
- 22 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
- 23 b) Proper site preparation should be done prior to planting, to include
- 24 brushing/slashing, staking, digging of hole, plowing and/or
- 25 cultivation;
- 26 c) Planting should be done at the onset of the rainy season.

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

1 representative from the natives in the area, shall ensure the proper  
2 management of the Arboretum.

3           **SECTION 6. Oversight Committee.** – An Oversight Committee is hereby  
4 created to oversee and monitor the development and operation of the arboretum  
5 composed of the following:

6           1) The DENR Secretary or his duly designated representative as  
7 Chairperson;

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

10           3) The Mayor of the Municipality of Tagoloan, Lanao del Norte as Vice-  
11 Chairperson;

12           4) The President of the League of Municipal Mayors of Lanao del Norte or  
13 the Vice-President thereof if the Mayor of Tagoloan is the President of the  
14 League, as member; and

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

17           **SECTION 7. Donations.** – The Arboretum may accept donations from  
18 government agencies or units and from private entities, both local and 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 System. Such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation  
22 of the arboretum shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

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

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

*Approved,*