


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*Second Regular Session*

6 JUN -7 P4:02

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 2350

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INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 16 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides:

"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."

Planting of trees along Philippine roadways that is, National, Provincial, City, Municipal, and Barangay, have the following purpose:

- a) to carry out a national tree-planting/replanting program which complements the country's reforestation goals; this legislation expands the meaning of the term "reforestation" to include public roads situated even in the hearts of cities and provinces;
- b) as a measure of defense against floods and the elements;
- c) to promote healthful ecology as well as conserve and beautify the environment pursuant to State policy "to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

Accordingly, the urgent passage of this bill is hereby recommended.




MANNY VILLAR

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PLANTING  
OF TREES ALONG ALL NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL,  
CITY, MUNICIPAL, AND BARANGAY ROADS  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be<sup>it</sup> enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the  
Philippines in congress assembled:*

Section 1. *Title* – This Act shall be known and cited as the  
**“Philippine Roadways Planting Act.”**

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the  
national policy to plant trees along all national, provincial, cities,  
municipal, and barangay roads to promote a balanced and healthful  
ecology as well as conserve and beautify and enhance the environment.

Section 3. *Scope.* – This Act shall apply to the following roadways:

- a) National roads;
- b) Provincial roads;
- c) City roads;
- d) Municipal roads;
- e) Barangay roads.

Section 4. *Definition of Terms:* As used in this Act:

- a) Ecology – the science concerned with the relations  
between living organisms and their environment;
- b) Environment – surroundings; all the conditions,  
circumstances and influences surroundings and affecting the  
development of an organism or group of organisms;
- c) Roads/Roadways – a way made for traveling between  
places by vehicles, persons, and animals; that part of roads used  
by vehicle, persons, and animals.

Section 5. *Objectives.* – Pursuant to the policy declared herein, it  
is the objective of this Act:

- a) To plant trees along all roadways (i.e., national, provincial, city,  
municipal, and barangay roads) the species to vary according to the  
condition, and location of the roads;
- b) To provide scenic environment along all Philippine roadways;

c) To provide along all roadways ample forest cover as defense against floods and the elements.

**Section 6. *National Committee.*** - A National Tree Planting Committee is hereby created with the Secretary of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) as chairman and the respective secretaries of the Department of Interior and Local Governments (DILG), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Department of Education (DE) as members.

The National Committee shall initiate, coordinate and monitor all the activities of the tree planting program throughout the country. The National Committee may tap any or all government agencies, corporations and instrumentalities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), peoples organizations (Pos), the Governor's League of the Philippines, the City and Municipal Mayors' League of the Philippines, and the Barangay Associations of the Philippines as local committees to provide resources and assistance in the implementation of this Act.

The National Committee shall have the power to promulgate the pertinent rules and regulations as may be necessary to fully implement the objectives and purposes of this Act within a period not to exceed three hundred sixty five (365) days from approval.

**Section 7. *Specific Functions of the Executive Departments.*** - For purposes of carrying out effectively the provisions of this Act:

a) The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall:

- (1) provide the necessary technical data respecting the classification, location, condition, and length of all existing National, Provincial, City, Municipal, and Barangay roads;
- (2) provide the necessary tools, equipment and manpower to effect the rapid planting of trees along all national, provincial, city, municipal, and barangay roads;
- (3) provide effective and optimum maintenance and care of the trees planted along all national, provincial, city, municipality, and barangay roads.

b) The Department of Interior and Local Governments (DILG) shall:

(1) mobilize all local government units to ensure prompt and effective implementation of this Act in every province, city, municipality, and barangay;

(2) effect the apprehension and the prosecution of all persons violating Section 8 of this Act.

c) The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall:

(1) determine the suitable species of trees and provide seeds or sappings therefore, suited to the kind, classification, and condition of the roads and environment;

(2) determine the proper distance between trees to be planted, suited to the nature, needs and characteristics of the species therefore and in turn complementing the kind, classification, and condition of the roads and environment;

(3) provide for effective measures and ways for the optimum maintenance and healthy growth of trees and plants along the roads.

(d) The Department of Education shall:

(1) involve all schools in the planting of trees in plazas, parks, and school premises;

(2) educate and inculcate in the young the values and benefits of a balanced and healthful ecology and environment.

**Section 8. *Prohibited Acts.*** - No cutting, destroying, or injuring of planted or naturally growing trees of any kind along all national, provincial, city, municipal, and barangay roads shall be permitted except when the cutting, destroying, or injuring of the same is necessary for public safety, or such pruning of the same is necessary to enhance its beauty and only upon recommendation and approval of the National Committee and/or of the appropriate local committees, as provided in Section 6 hereof, for national, provincial, city, municipal, and barangay roads respectively.

**Section 9. *Persons liable and Penalties therefore.***- Any person who cuts, destroys, damages or injures naturally-growing or planted trees of any kind, as provided in Section 8 hereof, shall be punished with imprisonment for not less than six (6) months to not more than two (2) years or a fine of not less than five thousand pesos to not more than ten thousand pesos, or with both such imprisonment and fine, at the discretion of the court, except when the cutting, destroying, or injuring is necessary to enhance its beauty, and only upon the recommendation and approval of the National Committees, and/or the corresponding local committees as provided in Section 6 hereof, as the case may be.

**Section 10. *Submission of Reports.*** - The National Committee shall within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act and every one hundred eighty (180) days thereafter submit periodic reports to both Houses of the Congress of the Philippines for evaluation and consideration.

**Section 11. *Funding.*** - The sums needed for the implementation of the trees planting program in this Act shall be taken from any available appropriation in the General Appropriations Act for 2006: Provided, that funds for this purpose shall also be included in the General Appropriations Act for 2007 and thereafter, if still necessary in every annual General Appropriations Act: Provided, finally, that there shall be equitable and proportionate appropriations of funds annually for this purpose for all provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays. In addition, adequate portion of financial grants and concessional loans

extended to the Philippines by foreign governments and multilateral agencies every year, the amount to be determined by the President, shall be allocated to augment the annual appropriations until this Act is fully implemented along all national, provincial, city, municipal, and barangay roads throughout the Philippines.

Section 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, such declaration of unconstitutionality will not affect the other provisions of this Act.

Section 13. *Amending and Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 14. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect upon its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,