


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

7 AUG 29 1983

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 1492

Introduced by Senator **JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

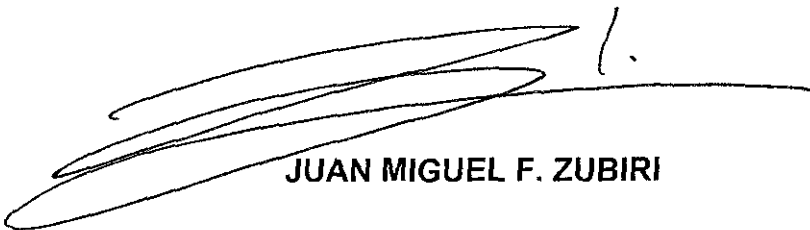
We assure ourselves of one foot anchored firmly in the death hole for every time we destroy one forest.

Various studies and first-hand experiences have taught us time and again that the continuous exploitation of the finite resources of our forests due to intensified logging activities result in catastrophic flashfloods. Examples of such catastrophes are the Ormoc, Mindoro and Davao tragedies.

Ironically, despite the knowledge that unabated deforestation results in siltation, soil erosion and flooding, we still continue to consume the finite resources of our forests in direct violation and apathy in the fact that environmental policies remain unimplemented.

Having caused already too much damage to our natural forest reserves, the continuation of activities detrimental to the survival of our forests will have to be abated at the soonest possible time. To prevent more tragedies resulting in this environmental exploitation, this bill seeks to support the government's environmental program by proposing a total logging ban on primary and secondary forests and rainforests for a period of thirty-five (35) years. This is to allow our forests to regenerate and stop their countdown to extinction.

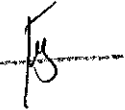
Immediate approval of this bill is requested.



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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7 AUG 29 11:53

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AN ACT
TO PRESERVE AND REHABILITATE THE FOREST BY BANNING ALL
LOGGING OPERATIONS IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY GROWTH FORESTS
AND RAINFORESTS, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE A TASK FORCE FOR
THE PRESERVATION AND REHABILITATION OF FORESTS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Title.* This Act shall be known as the "Forest Preservation and
2 Rehabilitation Act of 2007."

3 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State
4 to advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with
5 the rhythm and harmony of nature, to protect, conserve and develop the nation's
6 natural resources so as to prevent environmental degradation and disaster and
7 preserve the country's valuable ecosystem.

8 SECTION 3. *Total Logging Ban.* It shall be unlawful for any person to cut, fell
9 or destroy any tree or engage in any logging operation, in primary and secondary
10 types of forest, for a period of thirty-five (35) years from the effectivity of this Act.

11 Commercially planted trees for commercial and/or industrial purposes are
12 exempted from this ban: *Provided, that such trees are not located in primary and*
13 *secondary forests or rainforests.*

14 SECTION 4. *Task Force for the Preservation and Rehabilitation of Forests.* A
15 Task Force for the Preservation and Rehabilitation of Forests, hereinafter referred to
16 as the Task Force, shall be formed to implement the provisions of this Act.

- 1 a) Functions of the Task Force shall:
- 2 i) formulate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act,
3 including in such rules and regulations prohibited acts and
4 penalties for violations thereof;
- 5 ii) implement, in coordination with respective Local Government
6 Units and other public and private entities, such as rules and
7 regulations upon their effectivity for the period specified in the
8 preceding section of this Act;
- 9 iii) meet regularly to assess compliance with the rules and
10 regulations; and
- 11 iv) perform such other functions in accordance with and necessary
12 to the implementation of the intent and provisions of this Act.

13 b) Composition – The Task Force shall be composed of the Secretary of the
14 Department of Environment and Natural Resources as Chairman and the
15 Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of National
16 Defense, the Department of Interior and Local Government, the
17 Department of Agrarian Reform and two (2) representatives from
18 accredited and credible NGOs with expertise and advocacy on the
19 Environment, and other appropriate agencies of the government to be
20 determined by the President, as members. This Task Force shall be
21 organized not later than two (2) months after the effectivity of this Act.

22 c) The Task Force shall issue the rules and regulations of this Act not later
23 than one (1) year after its composition. The implementing guidelines shall
24 take effect fifteen (15) days following their publication in two (2) national
25 newspapers of general circulation.

26 SECTION 5. *Penalties.* The prison terms provided for the prohibited acts
27 under Chapter IV of P.D. No. 705, as amended, are hereby increased by one degree
28 higher. The Indeterminate Sentence Law shall not be applicable to these offenses.

29 SECTION 6. *Appropriation.* The amount necessary to carry out the provisions

1 of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following
2 its enactment into law and thereafter.

3 SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the
4 date of its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

5 Approved,