

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 0371



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Deforestation has been identified as one of the causes of flash floods associated with climate change and global warming, which has become a global concern, as more countries are beginning to experience climate changes and its negative effects. In the past years, typhoons Ondoy, Pedring, and Sendong had resulted to wide-spread flash floods due to our denuded forests and water reservoirs- the flash floods claimed thousands of lives, left numerous families devastated, and sent small and medium-scale businesses in the affected areas reeling to the ground.

On the other hand, Metro Manila and several provinces in Luzon recently experienced water shortage for domestic use and irrigation of agricultural lands as the water level in the major dams like Angat, Ipo and San Roque went down below critical level. As an immediate response, government has to ration and reduce the volume allocated for users and consumers of water. Multiple factors interplayed and contributed to this problem and one of them is the worsening condition of the forest cover in the watershed areas of these dams negatively impacting the water retention capacity of the forest.

We experienced a paradox where we experience water shortage during dry season and flash floods during wet season. This is primarily due to the denudation of our forest cover.

As an appropriate solution to this problem, reforestation has become a major and priority concern of the state through the National Greening Program (NGP) which was previously launched by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Nevertheless, reforestation should also be the concern of every citizen and residents alike.


As an effort of every citizen to help in the reforestation crusade of the State, this measure requires the planting of two (2) trees for every child born of a couple, one of tree for the father and another tree for the mother.

The number of trees to be planted as a result of this bill will be very significant and it will effectively supplement the 1.5 billion trees to be planted by the DENR through its NGP, taking into account the thousands of babies that are born and Human Development Report statistics almost 2 million babies are born in the Philippines every year, 166,667 every month and 5,556 every day; thereby assuring no less than 4 million trees yearly.

Furthermore, it will serve to develop the people's awareness of the need for reforestation and encourage tree planting as part of the family's concern and responsibility, thereby reviving the Filipino tradition- whereby parents, as a sign of love and care for their children, plant tree for them; and in turn, their children will take care of these trees as a sign of love, respect and as living memories for their parents.

To ensure compliance with this compulsory measure, the couple is required to execute a Joint Affidavit of Compliance sworn to before the Punong Barangay of the place where they reside, or the appropriate legal officer of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) or Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in the area where they reside. Thereafter, this joint-affidavit shall be submitted to the Civil Registrar's Office of the Municipality or City where the birth of the child should be registered as a requirement for the release of the child's Certificate of Live Birth.

This proposal has been deliberated and was unanimously approved on 3rd Reading during the 17th Congress and I hope that this bill will get the support of my colleagues in this 18th Congress.


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

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AN ACT
REQUIRING PARENTS TO PLANT TWO TREES FOR EVERY
CHILD BORN TO THEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Family Tree Planting Act of 2016”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*— The state recognizes the prevailing climate change and global warming brought about by human activity, and which have been experienced by countries world-wide. Likewise, the State recognizes that in the last three years typhoons have caused wide-spread flash floods that devastated different areas of the country, claimed thousands of lives, and caused massive damage to properties. Reforestation has thus become a primary concern of the State, which had recently launched the National Greening Program (NGP) through the Department of Environment and Natural resources (DENR). As supplement thereto, it is the policy of the State to involve the Filipino people in the conservation of our natural resources, particularly the State’s reforestation project under the National Greening Program, and in the process, encourage tree planting as part of the family’s concern and responsibility, thereby reviving the Filipino tradition- whereby parents, as a sign of love and care for their children, plant trees for them; and in turn, their children will take care of these planted trees as a sign of love, respect and as living memories for their parents.

SECTION 3. *Mandatory Family Tree Planting* — Each couple residing in the Philippines whether legally married or not, shall be required to plant or cause to plant two trees for every child born to them. These trees shall be planted within the premises of their family home. If the same is not possible, the same shall be planted in the areas to be designated by the concerned Provincial Environment and Natural Resources (PENRO) or by City Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO), as the case maybe, where they reside.

SECTION 4. *Ownership of trees.*— Ownership of the trees planted pursuant to this Act shall pertain to the parents or the child for whom the trees are planted, regardless of location, including those planted in public lands or along highways.

SECTION 5. *Joint Affidavit Attesting to Compliance* – As prerequisite for the release of the Certificate of Live Birth, the Local Civil Registrar of the City or Municipality where the birth of a child shall be registered shall require an affidavit executed by both parents, or by the solo parent exercising parental authority over the child, attesting that they have planted two trees in compliance with the requirement of this Act, and sworn before the Punong Barangay where they reside if the trees were planted within the premises of the family home, or before the appropriate legal officer of the PENRO or CENRO if the trees were planted in Government sites.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to carry into effect the purpose of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Penal Provision* – Any violation of this act by any civil registrar shall be penalized by a suspension for 15 days or fine of Five thousand Pesos (P5,000.00), or both, in discretion of the court, for the first offense; for the second offense, suspension of one month or a fine of Ten thousand Pesos (P10,000.00), or both, in the discretion of the court; and for the third offense, the erring Local Civil Registrar shall be dismissed from the office. The prosecution of violations committed by the erring Local Civil Registrar shall be without prejudice to the filing of an appropriate criminal case against the parents or parent who likewise violated any provision of this act.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity*– This Act shall be effective fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

SECTION 9. *Appropriation*– The sums necessary for the implementation of this act, including but not limited to the seedlings to be planted pursuant to this Act shall be included in the budget of the DENR under the Annual General Appropriations Act.

Approved.