

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 56



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the 1993 case of *Oposa v. Factoran*¹ the Supreme Court recognized the concept of inter-generational equity, upholding the rights of minors to sue for the judicious management of our country's forests and the necessity of maintaining a sound ecological balance and protecting and enhancing the quality of the environment in accordance with Sections 15 and 16, Article II of the 1987 Constitution.

Recognizing that a system of inter-generational equity involving both rights and responsibilities may be substantially more effective in achieving the twin goals of environment protection and sustainable development, this bill seeks to impose a positive duty upon all graduating elementary, high school and college students to plant at least ten (10) trees as a prerequisite for graduation. These trees shall be their legacy to the environment and to future generations.

Indeed, while we recognize the right of the youth to a balance and healthful ecology, as proclaimed in the 1987 Constitution, there is no reason why they cannot be made to contribute in order to ensure that this would be an actual reality.

With over 12 Million students graduation from elementary and nearly 5 Million students graduation from high school² and almost 500,000³ graduating from college each year, this initiative, if properly implemented, will ensure that at least 175 Million new trees would be


¹ *Oposa v. Factoran*, G.R. No. 101083 promulgated on 30 July 1993 (En Banc).

² Basic Education Information System - Data Bulletin. Previous School Year Promotees and Graduates in Government Elementary and Secondary Schools by Year! Grade Level and by Sex, School Year 2010-2011, Information retrieved from Research & Statistics Division Office of Planning Service, Department of Education on 20 March 2012

³ 2009 Data. Information retrieved from Commission on Higher Education on 20 March 2012.

planted each year. In the course of one generation,⁴ no less than 525 Billion trees can be planted under this initiative. Even with a survival rate of on ten percent (10%), tins would mean an additional 525 Million trees would be available for the youth to enjoy, when they assume the mantle of leadership in the future.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III
Representative
Magdalo Para sa Pilipino Party-List

⁴ Computed at thirty (30) years.

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AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL GRADUATING ELEMENTARY, HIGH SCHOOL AND
COLLEGE STUDENTS TO PLANT AT LEAST TEN (10) TREES EACH AS A
PREREQUISITE FOR GRADUATION AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This act shall be known as the "Graduation Legacy for the
2 Environment Act of 2019".
3

4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is the policy of the State to pursue programs and
5 projects that promote environmental protection, biodiversity, climate change mitigation,
6 poverty reduction and food security. To this end, the educational system shall be a locus for
7 propagating ethical and sustainable use of natural resources among the young to ensure the
8 cultivation of a socially responsible and conscious citizenry.
9

10 **SEC. 3. *Tree-planting as a Mandatory Requisite for Graduation.***- All graduating
11 students from grade school, high school, and college shall be required to plant at least ten
12 (10) trees as a mandatory prerequisite for their graduation. Said trees shall be their living
13 legacy to the environment and to future generations of Filipinos.
14

15 **SEC. 4. *Location.*** - The trees to be planted under this Act shall be located in any of
16 the following areas:
17

- 18 1) Forestlands;
 - 19 2) Mangrove and protected areas;
 - 20 3) Ancestral domains;
 - 21 4) Civil and military reservations;
 - 22 5) Urban areas under the greening plan of the LGUs;
 - 23 6) Inactive and abandoned mine sites; and
 - 24 7) Other suitable lands.
- 25

26 **SEC. 5. *Preference For Indigenous Species.*** - The planted species of trees should be
27 appropriate to the location, climate and topography of the area with preference for the
28 planting of indigenous species.
29

1 **SEC. 6. *Partner Agencies/Stakeholders.*** – The Department of Education (DepEd)
2 and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall implement the provisions of this
3 Act, in partnership with the following agencies:

- 4 (a) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
- 5 (b) Department of Agriculture (DA)
- 6 (c) Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)
- 7 (d) Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
- 8 (e) Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)
- 9 (f) Department of Health
- 10 (g) Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC)
- 11 (h) Department of National Defense (DND)
- 12 (i) Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
- 13 (j) Department of Justice (DOJ)
- 14 (k) National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)
- 15 (l) Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)
- 16 (m) Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR)

17
18 The responsibilities of these agencies shall include:

- 19 1. Nursery establishment
- 20 2. Seedling production and site preparation
- 21 3. Site identification
- 22 4. Monitoring and evaluation
- 23 5. Provision of security, transportation, fire protection amenities and medical support
- 24 6. Technical support and extension services

25
26 **SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.***– The DepEd, the CHED, in
27 coordination with the DENR and DILG, and in consultation with other agencies, shall
28 promulgate and issue the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) necessary to implement
29 this Act within sixty (60) days after its approval.

30
31 **SEC. 8. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this
32 Act shall be included in the budgets of the implementing departments/agencies in the annual
33 General Appropriations Act.

34
35 **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules
36 and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with any
37 provision of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, superseded or amended accordingly.

38
39 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** – Should any portion or provision of this Act be
40 declared unconstitutional or invalid by a competent court, the other provisions hereof shall
41 continue to be in full force and effect.

42
43 **SEC. 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
44 in the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,