

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3696



Introduced by Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo and Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish an arboretum in the campus of the Mindanao State University-Lanao del Norte Agricultural College in Barangay Ramain, Municipality of Sultan Naga Dimaporo to be known as the MSU-LNAC Arboretum.

An arboretum is an area devoted to specimen planting of woody plants which are either trees or shrubs. Distinct from a forest or park, it is in a sense an outdoor museum of trees. It is a place where many varieties of trees and shrubs are grown for research, educational, and ornamental purposes where trees and other woody plants are cultivated for exhibition.

An arboretum plays an important role in the lives of many people and is a valuable environmental, educational, recreational, and cultural resource for the country. It plays an important role in the area of conservation and preservation of endangered species of trees where they can be protected and propagated to preserve the biological diversity of planet Earth.

Trees help us address climate change by reducing the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. They do this by absorbing carbon dioxide (CO₂), using the carbon (C) to produce sugar for tree growth and releasing the oxygen (O₂) back in the air. As trees grow, they store carbon in their leaves. Planting more trees surely mitigate the effects of climate change – as long as the right trees are planted in the right place. An arboretum is such one right place.

Many services that an arboretum performs for the public at large are too well known to require elaboration. So also is the educational importance of an arboretum attached to a college or university. Perhaps the most important arboretum function from the academe point of view is to provide an outdoor laboratory for scientific studies by faculty, students and residents in dendrology, phenology, botany, environmental studies, photography and other related fields of study. The arboretum will serve as an educational resource for environmental stewardship, the history of the province, the study of trees and other woody plants, and a place of learning and respite for the people of Lanao del Norte. Hence, this bill.

In view of the importance of protecting and conserving endangered tree species and other woody plants, and having a clean and healthy environment, approval of this measure is earnestly requested.



ABDULLAH D. DIMAPORO
Second District, Lanao del Norte



MOHAMAD KHALID Q. DIMAPORO
First District, Lanao del Norte

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1 **AN ACT**
2 **ESTABLISHING THE MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY-LANAO DEL NORTE**
3 **AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE ARBORETUM IN BARANGAY RAMAIN,**
4 **MUNICIPALITY OF SULTAN NAGA DIMAPORO AND APPROPRIATING**
5 **FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

8 **SECTION 1. *MSU-LNAC Arboretum.*** – There is hereby established an arboretum of 100
9 hectares within the reservation for campus of the Mindanao State University-Lanao del Norte
10 Agricultural College (MSU-LNAC) in Barangay Ragain, Municipality of Sultan Naga
11 Dimaporo, Province of Lanao del Norte to be known as the MSU-LNAC Arboretum.

12 For purposes of this Act, *arboretum* refers to a reserved area which is essentially for a
13 well-grown and representative collection of trees or shrubs species planted and maintained for the
14 purpose of reference, scientific studies and as a convenient source of seed and herbarium
15 materials.

16 **SECTION 2. *Objectives.*** – The MSU-LNAC Arboretum shall have the following
17 objectives:

- 18 a) For scientific purposes and to provide an outdoor laboratory for scientific studies
19 by faculty and students in Dendrology, Phenology, Botany, Environmental Studies,
20 and other related fields of study;
- 21 b) For teaching of Dendrology;
- 22 c) As a sanctuary for the preservation and conservation of genetic resources of trees
23 and shrubs, and as a model for environmentally sound landscape management;
- 24 d) For the study of Phenology and the reproductive biology of species;

- e) To Grow the best of the woody plants and introduce new plants that can thrive in the locality;
- f) Provide recreation, enjoyment and study sites for students, visitors and local communities while preserving the natural beauty and ambience of the arboretum's protection zone; and
- g) Serve as the habitat for a variety of amphibians, reptiles, birds, and small mammals, making for an interesting mix of wildlife in the area.

SECTION 3. *Site of the Arboretum.* – The site of the arboretum shall be strategically located within the MSU-LNAC based on the availability of the required area and its accessibility. The site shall be situated in an area with available sources of water, with good drainage and fertile soil to be determined by MSU-LNAC in coordination with the DENR and Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte.

SECTION 4. *Layout and Design.* – The layout and design of the arboretum should satisfy its objectives and should conform to the following:

- a) The trees should be planted in rows following the contour of the land area;
- b) At least five replicates per species should be represented in a random/fashion design to ensure the security of the species;
- c) Each tree species should be numbered, labeled and tagged with scientific name, common and/or local name, and date and place of collection. For easy reference, the details of each tree species should be represented in the plan. In case of mortality, the species should be replanted with the appropriate species as indicated in the plan.

SECTION 5. *Planting.* – The following should be considered:

- a) The species of plants to be planted should be of high quality. Species to be planted should be properly determined twelve (12) months prior to planting in consultation with the DENR.
- b) Proper site preparation should be done prior to planting. This includes brushing/slashing, staking, digging of hole, plowing and/or cultivation. Grasses and other competing vegetation within at least one meter radius around each spot must be cleared.
- c) Planting should be done at the onset of the rainy season.

1 SECTION 6, *Supervision and Management.* – The MSU-LNAC Arboretum shall be
2 placed under the overall management and supervision of the DENR with an organization to
3 be put in place by the DENR, headed by a Superintendent duly appointed by the Secretary of
4 the DENR. The organization shall be named by the DENR Secretary.

5 SECTION 7. *Oversight Committee.* – An Oversight Committee is hereby created to
6 oversee and monitor the development and operation of the arboretum composed of the
7 following: 1) the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources or his representative as
8 Chairman; 2) the Provincial Governor of the Province of Lanao del Norte or his
9 representative as co-Chairman; 3) the Mayor of the Municipality of Sultan Naga Dimaporo as
10 Vice-Chairman; 4) the President of the League of Municipal Mayors of Lanao del Norte or
11 the Vice-President thereof if the Mayor of Sultan Naga Dimaporo is the President of the
12 League as member; 5) the Chancellor or Head of the MSU-LNAC as member and another
13 member to be appointed by the DENR Secretary from among three (3) recommendees of the
14 Provincial Governor.

15 SECTION 8. *Donations.* – An Arboretum may accept donations from government
16 agencies or units and from private entities, both local and foreign.

17 SECTION 9. *Arboretum Account.* – For purposes of the expeditious implementation
18 of this Act, the finances of the Arboretum shall be deposited in trust with the Provincial
19 Government of Lanao del Norte, and donations for specific purposes shall be in separate trust
20 funds.

21 SECTION 10. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement initially the
22 provisions of this Act shall be taken from the available savings of the DENR System. Such
23 sums as may be necessary for the continued operation of the arboretum shall be included in
24 the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

27 *Approved,*