

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

4781
House Bill No. _____



Introduced by Pangasinan Fifth District Representative
HON. RAMON V. GUICO III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

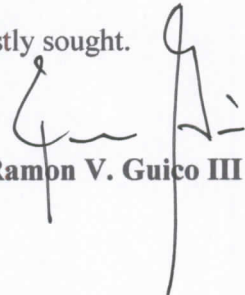
Over the years, the municipality of Binalonan in the Province of Pangasinan has developed into a progressive and inclusive community of self-reliant individuals.

In 1986, the town was awarded by the Malacañang Palace as "The Most Beautiful and Cleanest Town in the Philippines". Since then it has garnered several citations, as "Most Beautiful Plaza and Parks"; "Outstanding Community Development Model"; and "Urban Model Community". These awards were meant to signify the commitment of the municipality to maintain its policy and mission to keep the place as clean and environmental friendly.

True to this commitment, the town center features a four-and-a-half-hectare oasis of green. In the midst of this greenery is a forest of century-old acacia trees. More than an attraction, these majestic canopies are a living witness of the town's glorious past. Indeed, the acacia trees are a symbol of the indomitable spirit and resolute determination of the people of Binalonan to build a stronger and brighter future.

There is no denying that the acacia trees are a cultural and natural heritage that continues to bridge the past, the present, and the future. Enshrined in the 1987 Constitution is the duty of the State to protect the country's national patrimony, including its cultural heritage, its properties and history, and the ethnicities of local community. As such, this Act shall provide for the protection, conservation, and development of these majestic acacia trees.

For the above considerations, the immediate passage of this law is earnestly sought.


Rep. Ramon V. Guico III

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE ACACIA TREES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BINALONAN,
PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, AS LOCAL HERITAGE TREES AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR ITS PROTECTION, PRESERVATION, AND
CONSERVATION, AND OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION. 1. Declaration of Policy.**- It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
2 protect, preserve, and conserve the country's national patrimony, including its natural resources,
3 its cultural heritage, its properties and history, and ethnicities of local communities.

4 **SEC. 2. Local Heritage Tree.**- The Acacia trees located in the municipality of Binalonan,
5 Province of Pangasinan, declared as local heritage trees, shall be accorded priority by the
6 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Local Government Unit (LGU) of
7 Binalonan, and other concerned departments and units, shall be subject to the rules and
8 regulations governing the protection, preservation, and conservation of local heritage trees.

9 **SEC. 3. Protection, Preservation, and Conservation Plan of the Municipality of**
10 **Binalonan.**- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), other agencies
11 concerned, and Municipality Government of Binalonan, shall within one year after approval of
12 this Act, prepare the protection, preservation, and conservation plan of the Acacia trees.

13 **SEC. 4. Coordination with National Agencies and Local Government Units (LGUs).**-
14 The DENR, in coordination with the Municipality of Government of Binalonan, shall set forth

15 and implement the necessary protection, preservation, and conservation plan of the acacia trees
16 upon the promulgation of this Act.

17 **SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.***— All laws, decrees, executive orders or parts thereof
18 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

19 **SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.***— If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or
20 unconstitutional, the other parts not otherwise affected shall remain in full effect and force.

21 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity.***— This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
22 publication in at least two newspapers of general publication.

Approved,