



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Seventeenth Congress  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2470**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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**Introduced by Rep. Mohamad Q. Dimaporo  
and Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to establish an arboretum in the Municipality of Tagoloan, Lanao del Norte that shall include the Mighty Cave Park in it and shall be known as the Mighty Cave Park 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 (CO<sub>2</sub>), using the carbon (C) to produce sugar for tree growth and releasing the oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) 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.

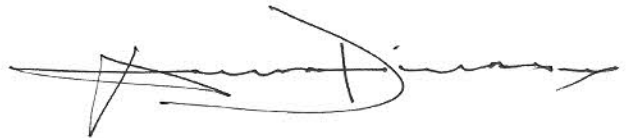
Many services that an arboretum performs for the public at large are too well known to require elaboration. Perhaps the most important arboretum function from the academe point of view is to provide an outdoor laboratory for scientific studies by faculty, students and residents in dendrology, phenology, botany, environmental studies, photography and other related fields of study. The arboretum will serve as an educational resource for environmental stewardship and the promotion of environment consciousness, 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 is filed.

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



**MOHAMAD KHALID Q. DIMAPORO**

*First District, Lanao del Norte*



**ABDULLAH D. DIMAPORO**

*Second District, Lanao del Norte*



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**HOUSE BILL NO. 2470**

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

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**AN ACT**

**ESTABLISHING AN ARBORETUM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAGOLOAN, LANA DEL NORTE WITH THE MIGHTY CAVE PARK IN IT, TO BE KNOWN AS THE MIGHTY CAVE PARK ARBORETUM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**SECTION 1. *Arboretum.*** – There is hereby established an arboretum of 200 hectares in the Municipality of Tagoloan, Lanao del Norte with the Mighty Cave Park in it, to be known as the Mighty Cave Park Arboretum.

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

**SEC. 2. *Objectives.*** – The Mighty Cave Park Arboretum shall have the following objectives:

1           a)     For scientific purposes and to provide an outdoor laboratory for  
2 scientific studies by faculty and students in dendrology, phenology, botany,  
3 environmental studies, and other related fields of study;

4           b)     For the teaching of Dendrology;

5           c)     As a sanctuary for the preservation and conservation of genetic  
6 resources of trees and shrubs, and as a model for environmentally sound  
7 landscape management;

8           d)     For the study of phenology and the reproductive biology of species

9           e)     To grow the best of the woody plants and introduce new plants  
10 that can thrive in the locality;

11          f)     Provide recreation, enjoyment, promotion of environment  
12 consciousness and study sites for students, visitors and local communities while  
13 preserving the natural beauty and ambience of the arboretum's protection zone;  
14 and

15          g)     Serve as the habitat for a variety of amphibians, reptiles, birds, and  
16 small mammals, making for an interesting mix of wildlife in the area.

17          SEC. 3. *Site of the Arboretum.* – The site of the arboretum shall be  
18 strategically located to include the Mighty Cave Park, which is located in  
19 Barangay Kiazar, Municipality of Tagoloan, Lanao del Norte. The site shall be  
20 situated in an area with available source of water, with good drainage and fertile  
21 soil.

1           SEC. 4. *Layout and design.* The layout and design of the arboretum  
2 should satisfy its objectives and should conform to the following:

3           a). The trees should be planted in rows following the contour of the land  
4 area;

5           b). At least five replicates per species should be represented in a  
6 random/fashion design to ensure the security of the species;

7           c). Each tree species should be numbered, labelled and tagged with  
8 scientific name, common and/or local name, and date and place of collection.  
9 For easy reference, the details of each tree species should be represented in the  
10 plan. In case of mortality, the species should be replanted with the appropriate  
11 species as indicated in the plan.

12          SEC.5. *Planting.* The following should be considered:

13          a). The species to be planted should be of high quality materials. They  
14 should be properly determined around 12 months prior to planting in  
15 consultation with the nearest appropriate office of the DENR.

16          b). Proper site preparation should be done prior to planting. This includes  
17 brushing/slashing, staking, digging of hole, plowing and/or cultivation. Grasses  
18 and other competing vegetation within at least one meter radius around each  
19 spot must be cleared.

20          c). Planting should be done at the onset of the rainy season.

21          SEC. 6. *Supervision and Management.* – The Mighty Cave Park  
22 Arboretum shall be placed under the overall management and supervision of the

1 DENR with an organization to be put in place by the DENR, headed by a  
2 Superintendent and all appointed by the Secretary of the DENR. The  
3 organization shall be named by the DENR Secretary.

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

14 SEC. 8. ***Donations.*** The Arboretum may accept donations from  
15 government agencies or units and from private entities, both local and foreign.

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

20 SEC. 10. ***Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to implement initially  
21 the provisions of this Act shall be taken from the available savings of the

1 DENR System. Such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation of  
2 the arboretum shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

5 *Approved,*