



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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3977



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish an arboretum in the premises of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Barangay Poblacion, Municipality of Kolambugan, Lanao del Norte to be known as the Kolambugan 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. 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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1 **AN ACT**
2 **ESTABLISHING AN ARBORETUM IN THE PREMISES OF THE**
3 **COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**
4 **OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KOLAMBUGAN, LANA DEL**
5 **NORTE TO BE KNOWN AS THE KOLAMBUGAN ARBORETUM AND**
6 **APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

10
11 SECTION 1. There is hereby established an arboretum in the premises of
12 the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in the Municipality
13 of Kolambugan, Lanao del Norte to be known as the *Kolambugan Arboretum*.

14 As used in this Act, *Arboretum* refers to a reserved area which is essentially
15 for a well-grown and representative collection of trees or shrubs species planted
16 and maintained for the purpose of reference, scientific studies and as a convenient
17 source of seed and herbarium materials.

18 SECTION. 2. The Arboretum shall serve the following purposes:

1 a) To aid in the study and teaching of dendrology, phenology, botany,
2 biology, and other related fields of study by being utilized as an outdoor
3 laboratory by both faculty and students of nearby schools;

4 b) To serve as a sanctuary for the preservation and conservation of
5 genetic resources of trees and shrubs, and as a model for environmentally sound
6 landscape management;

7 c) To be an area within which the best species of indigenous woody
8 plants can be propagated and where new species that can thrive in locality be
9 introduced;

10 d) To provide a healthy and conducive area for recreation while at the
11 same time enhancing the environmental consciousness of the community to
12 preserve the natural beauty and ambiance of the Arboretum's protection zone;
13 and

14 e) To serve as the habitat for a variety of amphibians, reptiles, birds,
15 small mammals, and other wildlife in the area.

16 SECTION 3. The layout and design of the arboretum shall conform to its
17 objectives and to the following consideration:

18 a) The trees should be planted in rows following the contour of the land
19 area;

20 b) At least five (5) replicates of each species should be planted to ensure
21 the security of the species;

1 c) Each tree species should be numbered, labelled and tagged with
2 scientific name, common or local name, and the date and place of collection. In
3 case of mortality, the species should be replanted with the appropriate species
4 should be replanted.

5 SECTION 4. To ensure the growth of the species to be planted:

6 a) Each tree species should be of high-quality materials, the selection of
7 which should be made at least twelve (12) months prior to planting, in
8 consultation with the nearest office of the Department of Environment
9 and Natural Resources (DENR).

10 b) Proper site preparation should be done prior to planting, to include
11 brushing/slashing, staking, digging of hole, plowing and/or cultivation.

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

13 SECTION 5. The Arboretum shall be placed under the overall
14 management and supervision of the DENR. The DENR Secretary shall be appoint
15 a Superintendent of the Arboretum who, together with a staff to be selected by
16 the DENR from among its staff, shall ensure the proper management of the
17 Arboretum.

18 SECTION 6. An Oversight Committee is hereby created to oversee and
19 monitor the development and operation of the arboretum composed of the
20 following:

21 1) The DENR Secretary or a duly designated representative as
22 Chairperson;

1 2) The Provincial Governor of the Province of Lanao del Norte or his
2 representative as co-Chairperson;

3 3) The Mayor of the Municipality of Kolambugan as Vice-Chairman;

4 4) The President of the League of Municipal Mayors of Lanao del
5 Norte or the Vice-President thereof if the Mayor of Sultan Naga Dimaporo is
6 the President of the League as member and;

7 5) one (1) member to be appointed by the DENR Secretary from among
8 three (3) recommendees of the Provincial Governor

9 SECTION 7. The Arboretum may accept donations from government
10 agencies or units and from private entities, both local and foreign.

11 SECTION 8. The amount necessary to implement initially the
12 provisions of this Act shall be taken from the available savings of the DENR
13 System. Such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation of the
14 arboretum shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

15 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
16 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

17 *Approved,*