

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H.B. No. **4158**

***Introduced by REP. LUISA LLOREN CUARESMA
LONE DISTRICT OF NUEVA VIZCAYA***

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to require all residential subdivisions to set aside an area exclusively devoted to trees and plants that have ecological and scenic value as a way of harmonizing infrastructure development with the ecological improvement of the environment.

Under this bill, Government will help provide seedlings needed to keep the subdivision parks green.

The importance of this bill cannot be stressed in the wake of the recent tragedy that befell many Filipinos during the heavy rains and floods that swept the country. This bill is actually a companion bill to Senate Bill No. 1626, which I filed banning commercial logging for the next twenty-five (25) years. Both bills are intended to restore ecological balance.

In view of the foregoing, the bill's passage is earnestly requested.

Luisa Loren Cuaresma
REP. LUISA LLOREN CUARESMA

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3 **AN ACT**
4 **GRANTING INCENTIVES TO SUBDIVISION HOMEOWNERS**
5 **ASSOCIATIONS TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN FORESTED AREAS**
6 **WITHIN THEIR SUBDIVISIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**
7
8

9 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
10 *Congress assembled:*
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13 **SECTION 1. *Title.*** – This Act shall be known as "The Philippine
14 Residential Green Parks Act of 2016."
15

16 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – Art. II, Section 16 of the
17 Constitution provides that "The State shall protect and advance the right of
18 the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm
19 and harmony of nature". In line with this, the State hereby grants
20 incentives for the development and maintenance of forested areas within
21 subdivision projects so that a balanced and healthy environment will exist
22 within the community.
23

24 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – When used in this Act, the following
25 terms shall, unless the context otherwise indicate, have the following

1 respective meanings:

2 (a) "*Subdivision Project*" refers to a tract or parcel of land registered
3 under Act. No. 496, partitioned primarily for residential purposes into
4 individual lots, with or without improvements thereon, and offered to the
5 public for sale, in cash or installment terms. It shall include all residential,
6 commercial, industrial and recreational areas, as well as open spaces and
7 other community and public areas in the project.

8 (b) "*Association*" refers to the association of homeowners within the
9 subdivision, organized primarily to promote the best interest and
10 well-being, as well as safeguard the welfare, of the residents and owners of
11 property in the subdivision project.

12 (c) "*Green park*" refers an area, designated on the subdivision plan, of
13 forested land, developed and maintained by the Association, reserved for
14 public use as an ecological refuge. Such green park shall be devoted
15 exclusively to the planting and growing of trees of any kind, flowering or
16 ornamental plants and shrubs, or plants of scenic, aesthetic and ecological
17 values.

18 (d) "*Bureau*" refers to the Bureau of Forest Development.
19

20 **SEC. 4. Area.** – The area of one green park shall be at least be five
21 percent (5%) of the total gross area of the subdivision project.
22

23 **SEC. 5. Requirements.** – In order to avail of the benefits granted
24 under Section 7 hereof, the Association shall submit to the Bureau the
25 plans for the development and maintenance of the green park, which shall
26 include:

1 (a) The subdivision plan as approved by the Director of Lands, as
2 provided for under the second paragraph of Section 4 of Presidential Decree
3 No. 957;

4 (b) An indication of the types of trees and plants planted and grown
5 in the green park; and

6 (c) A plan for the maintenance of the green park, to ensure its
7 ecological viability, as well as evidence of actual application thereof for at
8 least one (1) year.

9
10 **SEC. 6. Issuance of Certification.** – Upon the submission of all
11 the requirements mentioned in Section 5 hereof, the Bureau shall issue a
12 certification to this effect. The Bureau shall also have the power to
13 determine whether the development and maintenance plans for the green
14 park meet the standards that the Bureau shall promulgate, to ensure that
15 the green park creates a balanced and healthful ecology within the
16 community. No certification shall be issued should the development and
17 maintenance plans fail to meet such standards.

18 The certification shall be the basis, upon application by the
19 Association with the proper agency or authority, for the grant of the benefits
20 under Section 7 hereof.

21
22 **SEC. 7. Benefits.** – Upon presentation of the certification, as
23 provided for under the second paragraph of Section 6 hereof, the
24 Association shall be entitled to the following benefits:

25 (a) The Bureau of Plant Industry shall provide the Association with
26 tree and plant seedlings for planting in the green park for free; and

1 (b) The city or municipal government where the green park is located
2 shall provide the Association with tools and implements, for free to be used
3 exclusively for the maintenance of the green park.
4

5 **SEC. 8. *Prohibition.*** – In no case shall any artificial structure or
6 improvement be constructed within the boundaries of the green park,
7 unless such artificial structures or improvements are absolutely necessary
8 for the development and maintenance of the Green park, as well as the
9 preservation of the ecological system contained therein.
10

11 **SEC. 9. *Cancellation of Certification.*** – If at any time, the Bureau
12 determines, upon application of any person, that the state and condition of
13 the green park ceases to serve its purpose, or that the standards of the
14 Bureau are no longer met, the Bureau shall cancel its certification. Such
15 cancellation shall result to the withdrawal of all benefits already granted or
16 availed of under Section 7 hereof and no benefits may be further availed of
17 by the Association.
18

19 **SEC. 10. *Re-application.*** – If, within a reasonable time, as
20 determined by the Bureau, from the time of the cancellation of the
21 certification, as provided for under Section 9 hereof, the Bureau approves a
22 re-application by the Association for the certification, as provided for under
23 Section 5 of this Act, the benefits granted under Section 7 hereof may be
24 availed of pursuant to the terms and conditions provided for under Section
25 6 and Section 9.
26

1 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders,
2 letters of instruction, proclamations, rules and regulations inconsistent
3 with this Act shall be modified, amended or repealed accordingly.

4
5 **SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.*** – If for any cause, any part of
6 provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder
7 or any part or provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

8
9 **SEC. 13. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15)
10 days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2)
11 newspapers of general circulation.

12
13 ***Approved,***