



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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1900

Introduced by Honorable Mark A. Villar

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION TO LOOK INTO, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL GREENING PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDING MEASURES TO BOOST THE REFORESTATION EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, The 1987 Constitution provides that: "*The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.*" (Article II, Section 16)

WHEREAS, our country's forests have dwindled in the past 100 years (from 30 million hectares) to only 7.2 million, or 24 percent of our land area, resulting in the country having the second-lowest forest cover in Southeast Asia;

WHEREAS, in order to address this issue, the President of the Philippines issued Executive Order No. 26 declaring the implementation of the National Greening Program, in February 2011;

WHEREAS, under the said Executive Order, it states that "the National Greening Program shall plant some 1.5 Billion trees covering about 1.5 Million hectares for a period of six (6) years from 2011 to 2016, in the following lands of the public domain: Forestlands, Mangrove and protected areas; Ancestral domains; Civil and military reservations; Urban areas under the greening plan of the LGUs; Inactive and abandoned mine sites, and Other suitable lands;"

WHEREAS, in a study conducted by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, data showed that while the goal was to plant 600 million seedlings between 2011 and 2013, the program was only able to plant 397.76 million during the period¹;

WHEREAS, it further stated that the target was missed by 10.37 million seedlings in 2011, 74.4 million seedlings in 2012, and 117.45 million in 2013, indicative of an increasing deficit in seedlings planted²;

WHEREAS, in an evaluation report of the Commission on Audit in 2013, it was mentioned that there were no inspections made on the status of the planted seedlings under the program, and it was observed that focus was solely made on the number of hectares and the seedlings planted, considering that the actual survival rate of sampled seedlings in 2012 was only 61%, while the desired survival rate of the seedlings is 85%³;

WHEREAS, there are reports that the reforestation sites are allegedly burned on purpose so that reforestation can continue and bring livelihood to settlers who are hired to plant seedlings⁴;

WHEREAS, for reasons stated above, there is a need to assess and review the implementation of the national greening program to achieve its laudable purposes of poverty reduction, resource conservation and protection, productivity enhancement, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to recommend measures, if necessary, to address the low replanting and survival rates;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives, to direct the House Committee on Reforestation, to look into, in aid of legislation, the status of implementation of the National Greening Program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the purpose of recommending measures to boost the reforestation efforts of the government.

Adopted,


MARK A. VILLAR

¹http://www.pids.gov.ph/PHL_Greening_Program_Falls_Below_Governments_Target,_PIDS_Study.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴<http://www.rappler.com/move-ph/ispeak/60948-rethinking-national-greening-program>