

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

19th Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5295



Introduced by **HONORABLE PETER B. MIGUEL**

AN ACT DECLARING EVERY JUNE 29 OF EVERY YEAR AS LOCAL SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF KORONADAL IN CELEBRATION OF THE TREE GROWING DAY TO COMMEMORATE THE TREE GROWING FESTIVAL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Tree Growing Activity aims to raise awareness to the society in the importance of planting and saving trees, express our concern to the environment, and diminish the unfavorable effects of climate change. It also helps us build a strong relationship and camaraderie with each other by helping hand in hand in preserving the ecology.

Our environment needs humans' tender loving care and we can do so by engaging in environmental activities that also improve our quality of living such as tree planting.

Trees have lots of benefits and tree growing is an essential way countries across the globe are doing to avert the harsh impacts of climate change. We have seen the damage it wrought upon us in the form of super typhoons, monsoon rains, landslides, and erratic weather conditions.

Koronadal City, a highly urbanized city, acknowledges the importance and benefits of trees for a livable and sustainable community. In the sides of the streets, parks and backyards, trees are grown as it brings an aesthetic and peaceful environment that also brings natural elements and wildlife habitat into urban settings. It also deflects sunlight in the cities thereby reducing the heat island effect.

Trees highly contribute to a clean environment as they improve air quality through the process of photosynthesis – producing oxygen and taking in carbon dioxide. It also filters air intercepting unhealthy particles by removing dusts and absorbing pollutants like carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide and letting the rain wash them after.

It also helps in climate amelioration by mitigating the effects of the sun, rain and wind as the leaves absorb and filter the sun's radiant energy, acting as a shield from the falling rain and preserve warmth by screening off the harsh wind.

The roots of trees hold the soil in place as it fights erosion that causes landslide. It also absorbs and store rainwater that helps reduce runoff and sediment deposit after the storms. It also helps recharge ground water supply, prevents transport of chemicals into streams as well as prevents flooding. Its fruits provide food while its fallen leaves also make good compost and improve the quality of soil.

Being with nature improves cognitive function, enhances memory and discipline. A walk in the park full of trees can also relieve stress, empowering one's state of mind.

There is no doubt that engaging in tree planting activities strengthens the communities. By this kind of activities, it is important to take good care of our shelter by continuing to plant new seedlings that will help us attain a sustainable our future,"

The proposed measure seeks to declare June 29 of every year as special non-working holiday in the City of Koronadal in order to give its citizens the chance to organize and stage the appropriate ceremonies in honor of the Tree Growing Festival.

The Tree Growing Festival was launched in June 2011 as part of the environment month celebration and it became a yearly activity of the city supported by an ordinance (City Ordinance No. 12 Series of 2012).

For the people of South Cotabato, the passage of the proposed law is earnestly sought.



PETER B. MIGUEL
Representative, 2nd District South Cotabato

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THE CITY OF KORONADAL TO COMMEMORATE THE TREE GROWING ACTIVITY TO KNOWN AS
TREE GROWING FESTIVAL**

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

- Section 1:* *Short Title:* This Act shall be known as "The Tree Growing Holiday Act in the City
of Koronadal"
- Section 2:* *Period of Observation of the Tree Planting Holiday:* The 29th of June of every year
is hereby declared as Tree Planting Holiday pursuant to Koronadal City Ordinance
Number 12 Series of 2012.
- Section 3:* *Effectivity Clause:* This Act shall take effect after its complete publication in the
Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED.