



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4974

BY REPRESENTATIVES MAGSAYSAY (M.), MATUGAS AND ABAYA, PER
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1268

AN ACT FIXING THE SPECIFIC LIMITS OF FORESTLANDS IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known and cited as the
2 “Forest Limits Act for the Province of Zambales”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to
4 conserve, protect and develop the forest resources of the country in order to
5 attain ecological balance, preserve valuable ecosystems, prevent environmental
6 degradation and promote sustainable development for the present and
7 succeeding generations. To achieve these ends, Section 4 of Article XII of the
8 1987 Constitution mandates Congress to determine by law the specific limits of
9 forestlands and national parks, marking clearly their boundaries on the ground.

10 SEC. 3. *Permanent Forestlands in the Province of Zambales.* – The
11 permanent forestlands in the Province of Zambales shall be as follows:

12 (a) All lands of the public domain already classified as forestland per
13 existing land classification maps of the Department of Environment and
14 Natural Resources (DENR);

1 (b) All permanent forest reserves proclaimed as such by the President
2 or declared through an act of Congress; and

3 (c) Such areas within the unclassified lands of the public domain which
4 may hereafter be classified as forestland by the DENR pursuant to this Act.

5 *SEC. 4. Ground Delineation of the Specific Forest Limits.* –

6 Immediately upon the effectivity of this Act, the DENR shall undertake the
7 actual ground survey and verification of the specific forest limits using as basis
8 all existing land classification (LC) maps, the latest forest cover data of the
9 National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) from its
10 satellite imagery interpretations, and other available and reliable sources of
11 information.

12 *SEC. 5. Permanent Forest Line.* – The permanent forest line or

13 boundary of the forestlands shall be established and clearly marked on the
14 ground by concrete monuments at certain fixed distances, visible cut lines,
15 signboards and uniformly-spaced distinctive trees between the concrete
16 monuments, which shall be maintained at all times.

17 *SEC. 6. Non-diminution of the Specific Forest Limits.* – The

18 permanent forestlands established pursuant to this Act shall not be diminished
19 or reduced except by an act of Congress. The DENR, in coordination with all
20 agencies and branches of the government, shall see to it that the forest cover
21 and vegetation shall be protected, preserved and enhanced.

22 *SEC. 7. Subclassification of the Permanent Forestlands.* – The

23 permanent forestlands shall be subclassified by the DENR into:

24 (a) Protection forest; or

25 (b) Production forest after due consultation with the local government
26 units (LGUs), concerned communities and other stakeholders.

27 *SEC. 8. Status of National Parks, Mineral Lands and Other Public*

28 *Reservations.* – The land classification of proclaimed national parks,

1 protected areas and mineral lands and the status of civil reservations, military
2 reservations and other reservations for public and quasi-public uses in the
3 Province of Zambales shall be respected and shall not be adversely affected by
4 this Act.

5 SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* -- The sums necessary to initially implement
6 the provisions of this Act shall be taken from available savings of the DENR.
7 Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued operation of the program shall
8 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

9 SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* -- Within three (3)
10 months from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR shall issue the implementing
11 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

12 SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* -- If any portion of this Act is declared
13 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the
14 other provisions not affected thereby.

15 SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* -- All laws, decrees, letters of instruction,
16 executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof
17 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

18 SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* -- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
19 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general
20 circulation.

Approved,

O