



Republic of the Philippines  
Provincial Government of Palawan  
**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN**  
Puerto Princesa City

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 98<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
44<sup>TH</sup> SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN HELD ON JUNE 18, 2024  
AT THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN SESSION HALL,  
CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA**

**PRESENT:**

Hon. Leoncio N. Ola,	<i>Vice Governor &amp; Presiding Officer</i>
Hon. Winston G. Arzaga,	<i>S.P Pro-Tempore</i>
Hon. Roseller S. Pineda,	<i>Floor Leader</i>
Hon. Marivic H. Roxas,	<i>Assistant Floor Leader – 2<sup>nd</sup> District</i>
Hon. Rafael V. Ortega Jr.,	<i>Assistant Floor Leader – 3<sup>rd</sup> District</i>
Hon. Juan Antonio E. Alvarez,	<i>S.P. Member – 1<sup>st</sup> District</i>
Hon. Ryan D. Maminta,	<i>S.P. Member – 2<sup>nd</sup> District</i>
Hon. Al-Nashier M. Ibba,	<i>S.P. Member – 2<sup>nd</sup> District</i>
Hon. Ariston D. Arzaga,	<i>S.P. Member – 2<sup>nd</sup> District</i>
Hon. Arnel P. Abrina,	<i>S.P. Member – IPM Representative</i>

**ABSENT:**

Hon. Nieves C. Rosento,	<i>S.P. Member – 1<sup>st</sup> District</i>
Hon. Maria Angela V. Sabando,	<i>S.P. Member – 1<sup>st</sup> District</i>
Hon. Ferdinand P. Zaballa,	<i>S.P. Member – President, Liga ng mga Barangay</i>
Hon. Al-Shariff W. Ibba,	<i>S.P. Member – PCL Federation President</i>
Hon. Luzviminda L. Bautista,	<i>S.P. Member – SK Federation President</i>

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**PROVINCIAL RESOLUTION NO. 19915**  
Series of 2024

**URGING THE HONORABLE MARIA ANTONIA YULO-LOYZAGA, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR), TO HIGHLY CONSIDER THE INCLUSION OF THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN IN THEIR “LARGE SCALE REFORESTATION PROJECT” FOR THE CONTINUED REHABILITATION AND CONSERVATION OF FOREST COVER IN THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN**

Authored by:

**HON. ARISTON D. ARZAGA**

**WHEREAS**, Section 16 of Article II of the 1987 Philippine 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*”;

**WHEREAS**, under this section, it establishes the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology as a state policy and obligate the government to protect and promote this right

which encompasses the protection and conservation of the environment as part of the state's duty;

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order No. 192 provides that the *"Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to be the primary government agency responsible for the conservation, management, development, and proper use of the country's environment and natural resources, specifically forest and grazing lands, mineral resources, including those in reservation and watershed areas, and lands of the public domain, as well as the licensing and regulation of all natural resources as may be provided for by law in order to ensure equitable sharing of the benefits derived therefrom for the welfare of the present and future generations of Filipinos"*;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) guided by its Core Functions, *"it formulates, implements and supervises the government's policies, plans and programs pertaining to the management, conservation, development, use and replenishment of the country's natural resources and ecological diversity and it promulgates and implements rules and regulations governing the exploration, development, extraction, disposition, and use of the forests, lands, minerals, wildlife, and other natural resources"*;

**WHEREAS**, the Province of Palawan was described by the Conservation International as the Philippines' "Last Biodiversity Frontier" because it retains more than fifty percent (50%) of its original forest cover and harbors vast stretches of old growth forests on its mountainous slopes;

**WHEREAS**, in 2013, the Forestry Statistics report released by the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) revealed that Palawan ranks number one in all provinces of the country in terms of "Forest Cover" with its 1,489,626 hectares of total land area, 692,288 hectares of which are covered with forest;

**WHEREAS**, the Province of Palawan is, at present, facing ecological issues, namely: "Mining and Quarrying", "Illegal Logging", "Slash and Burn" and "Illegal Wildlife Trading" being the foremost major threats that contributed in the environmental degradation of the Province;

**WHEREAS**, because of the foregoing threats, the Province of Palawan, from its being number one all over the provinces of the country, has drastically decreased its forest cover from 53 percent to 46.47 percent which its standing from rank 1 to rank 6 recently;

**WHEREAS**, if there will be no government or non-government reforestation initiatives will be undertaken through partnership or memorandum of understanding or any form collaborative efforts, the present condition of our forest cover in the Province will continue to decrease and will eventually become denuded;

**WHEREAS**, as part of the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP) through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the government plans to reforest at least one million hectares of land in the country before 2028 aiming to facilitate the achievement of national climate transition goals for the eventual attraction of foreign investors;

**WHEREAS**, on account of the foregoing premises, this august Body appeals before the leadership of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the possibility of including the Province of Palawan to its "Large Scale Reforestation Projects" for regeneration of the Province's forest cover;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, on motion of Honorable Roseller S. Pineda, duly seconded, be it,





**RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Honorable Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), to highly consider the inclusion of the Province of Palawan in their "large scale reforestation project" for the continued rehabilitation and conservation of forest cover in the Province of Palawan;

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that a copy of this resolution be furnished to Honorable Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), 2/F DENR Bldg., Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City; all Municipal Mayors of Palawan; all Punong Barangays in the Province of Palawan, for their information and appropriate action.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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**I CERTIFY** to the correctness of the above-quoted Provincial Resolution.

ATTESTED:

  
**LEONCIO N. OLA**

*Vice Governor & Presiding Officer*

  
**ANGELA R. PEÑA**  
*Secretary to the Sanggunian*


APPROVED:

**V. DENNIS M. SOCRATES**

  
*Governor*

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Date

*This document is not valid without the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Seal*

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN PROVINCE OF PALAWAN
Date Returned: <u>JUL 24 2024</u>
Deemed Approved Pursuant To Sec. 54 of the Local Gov't Code of 1991
 RAYMUNDO G. PADRONES JR. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ASST. CHIEF OF STAFF (ASST. SECRETARY TO THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN)