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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 921

Submitted by the Committee on Natural Resources on April 28, 2021
Re: House Bill No. 9268
Recommending its approval, in substitution of House Bill No. 431

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Natural Resources, to which was referred House Bill No. 431, introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez, entitled:

“AN ACT
IMPOSING A LOGGING BAN IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY”

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. 9268 entitled:

“AN ACT
IMPOSING A LOGGING BAN IN THE CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF”

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 431, with Representatives Rodriguez, and Barzaga as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

REP. ELPIDIO F. BARZAGA JR.
Chairperson
Committee on Natural Resources

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
House of Representatives
Quezon City
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9268
(In substitution of House Bill No. 431)

Introduced by Representatives Rufus B. Rodriguez and Elpidio F. Barzaga Jr.

“AN ACT
IMPOSING A LOGGING BAN IN THE CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO
AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF”

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

SECTION 1. Statement of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Towards this end, the State shall institute measures to protect the people and the environment in the City of Cagayan de Oro from the adverse effects of logging.

SEC. 2. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

a. Commercial logging refers to the cutting, felling or destruction of trees from old growth and residual forests for the purpose of selling or otherwise disposing of the cut or felled logs for profit;

b. Communal forest refers to a small tract of forest land set aside by the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), upon the recommendation of a local government unit for the use of its residents;

c. Forest land refers to land of the public domain classified as needed for forest purposes. It includes all forest reserves of the public domain;
d. Logging refers to the process, work, or business of cutting down trees for commercial purposes.

SEC. 3. Imposition of a Logging Ban in Cagayan de Oro City. – A logging ban is hereby imposed within the territorial jurisdiction of the City of Cagayan de Oro.

SEC. 4. Exemption from the Logging Ban. – The following shall be exempted from the logging ban:

(a) planted trees within private lands;
(b) planted trees within forest lands established and developed by tenurial instrument holders in accordance with the approved plans;
(c) wood sources necessary for government infrastructure project in predetermined areas, preferably from a communal forest;
(d) trees necessary for extraction as means of silvicultural treatment;
and
(e) trees affected during road construction and other similar government-approved projects for basic services such as, energy and power development, public works or water utilities: Provided, That any harvesting or cutting of tree species shall be done in compliance with the requirements of pertinent forestry and environmental laws such as Presidential Decree 705, as amended, and other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

SEC. 5. Penal Provision. – Any person, natural or juridical, or any public officer, who violates the provisions of this Act shall be penalized with imprisonment of at least six (6) years but not more than twelve (12) years, and a fine of at least One hundred thousand pesos (₱100,000.00) but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos (₱500,000.00).

In addition, a public officer who violates this Act shall also be dismissed from service and perpetually disqualified from holding public office.

If the offender is a juridical entity, the highest ranking official and the members of its board of directors or board of trustees who authorized the violations therein shall suffer the penalty imposed under this Act.
SEC. 6. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR Secretary shall issue the corresponding rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. **Separability Clause.** – If any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining sections or provisions with the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,