

# GENERATING GREEN JOBS REFORESTING THE PHILIPPINES AND SAVING THE PLANET

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President

Foundation for Economic Freedom

Plenary Session 1

“How can the country attain sufficiency in wood and non-timber forest products?”



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**8-12 Nov 2023**

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# - LOW FOREST COVER

 only **7.23m** ha of land

 decades of **mismanagement of property rights**



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# - LOW CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMY

 83% of wood supply are **imports**

 only an average of **0.04% contribution** to the economy for the past 2 decades



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# + GOOD NEWS

- ✓ tropical climate for forests to flourish
- ✓ untapped 5.5m ha of forest lands
- ✓ young population



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**- BUT**

📌 people are not planting enough trees  
due to **insecurity of property rights** in forest lands

📌 continues to **stifle** private sector investments

📌 **44 log bans** since the 1970s



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# + PRIVATE SECTOR & POTENTIAL INVESTORS

- ✓ capacity and resources
- ✓ willing to help the government
- ✓ interested in tree farming/plantation development



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# 2 POLICY REFORM PROPOSALS:

## 1 INTEGRATION OF FOREST LANDS IN THE NATIONAL CADASTRE SYSTEM



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# INTEGRATION OF FOREST LANDS IN THE NATIONAL CADASTRE SYSTEM



Total area of **30M ha**



**14.2M ha of A&D lands**



included in national cadastre in a public registry



**other 15.8M ha of forest lands**



not included in the national cadastre



information is unavailable in a publicly accessible database



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# INTEGRATION OF FOREST LANDS IN THE NATIONAL CADASTRE SYSTEM

 Finland, Germany, and New Zealand  
 cadastre caters to **all** land classifications

 Turkey and Greece  
 **separate cadastre** for forests



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# FOREST CADASTRE

- ✓ a **systematic** and parcel-based recording
- ✓ **mapping** of interests in forest lands
- ✓ similar to the existing cadastre on A&D lands that are **publicly available**



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# FOREST CADASTRE

- ✓ **indisputable** claims and rights information system
- ✓ all information is **transparent and publicly accessible**
- ✓ forest plantations and other forest lands used for commercial purposes are **bankable**



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# 2 POLICY REFORM PROPOSALS:

## **2** TREATING PLANTED TREES IN FOREST LANDS AS A PERSONAL PROPERTY



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# PLANTED TREES IN FOREST LANDS AS PERSONAL PROPERTY

- ✓ can be **securitized and used as collateral** for loans
- ✓ tree grower can also own a planted tree **separate** from the land, which is heavily regulated
- ✓ the planted tree is treated as a **crop and renewable resource** like any other vegetable
- ✓ **guarantee the rights** to plant and harvest



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✓ In Thailand, economically valuable trees can be used as **collateral** when applying for **loans** at financial institutions

✓ **32,133 trees** registered as collateral for **THB4.559 Million** or **USD136,822.70**



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# PLANTED TREES IN FOREST LANDS AS PERSONAL PROPERTY

 can be covered by **insurance**

 Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) only covers agricultural crops, farmers, agricultural assets, and fisheries

 Trees are not included



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# MOVING FORWARD

✓ tree plantations average **100-200 m<sup>3</sup> of wood** per ha annually

✓ **fast-growing trees** can already be harvested after 5-6 years and even after 3 years, depending on site quality conditions



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 decline of the country's **forest cover**  
 increasing concerns on **climate change**  
 decline of local **wood production**

 **sustainably manage** forest resources  
 well-defined **property rights**  
 **accessible & reliable** information

# BOTH PROPOSED REFORMS

- ✓ strengthen the **property rights** in forest lands
- ✓ encourage **private sector investments** and
- ✓ contribute to the **sustainable forest management**



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# BOTH PROPOSED REFORMS

 **complement** DENR's ongoing policies and programs

 **tree farm and plantation development**



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# WITH BOTH PROPOSED REFORMS

the **Philippines** will become



**self-sufficient and**



**a forestry superpower**



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# - THANK YOU! -



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