



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
PAMAHALAAN LUNGSOD NG MUNTINLUPA  
KALAKHANG MAYNILA  
Telephone no. 861-0181/Fax: 862-6473  
Email address: sangguniangpanlungsod2k19@gmail.com



ORDINANCE NO. 2020-188

AN ORDINANCE FURTHER REGULATING TREE CUTTING, TRIMMING, PRUNING  
AND EARTH-BALLING IN THE CITY OF MUNTINLUPA, REPEALING CERTAIN  
PROVISIONS OF CITY ORDINANCE 15-143 FOR THE PURPOSE

\*\*\*\*\*

Sponsored by: *Hon. Coun. Engr. Marissa C. Rongavilla*  
*Hon. Coun. Atty. Raul R. Corro*  
*Hon. Coun. Alexson V. Diaz*  
*Hon. Coun. Paty Katy C. Boncayao*  
*Hon. Coun. Louisito A. Arciaga*  
*Hon. Coun. Allan Rey A. Camilon*  
*Hon. Coun. Ting Niefes*  
*Hon. Coun. Ivey Rhia A. Tadea*  
*Hon. Coun. Francis Ian T. Bagatsing*  
*Hon. Coun. Mark Lester M. Baes*  
*Hon. Coun. Engr. Mamerto T. Sevilla, Jr.*  
*Hon. Coun. Engr. Arlene D. Hilapo*  
*Hon. Coun. Cornelio M. Martinez*  
*Hon. Coun. Walter A. Arcilla*  
*Hon. Coun. Kenichi D. Takagi, Jr.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**WHEREAS**, it is the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a healthful and balanced environment, and to establish a holistic approach to restore the earth's natural ecosystem';

**WHEREAS**, poverty reduction, resource conservation and protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation are among the priority programs of the City Government of Muntinlupa;

**WHEREAS**, Presidential Decree No. 953 requires **"the planting of trees in certain places and penalizing unauthorized cutting, destruction, damaging and injuring of certain trees, plants and other vegetation"** to ensure strict compliance with environmental protection policies;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Muntinlupa, in ensuring the total protection of the environment, particularly in the maintenance and removal of trees planted within its jurisdiction, enacted City Ordinances No. 90-026 and 15-143 to complement the provisions of PD No. 953;

**WHEREAS**, now more than ever, the City Government of Muntinlupa recognizes the role and effect of clean air and a balanced and healthful ecology to the strengthening of the immune system and overall health and safety of the people, and that despite the current crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the City Government has experienced an increased number in tree-cutting requests and applications;





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**WHEREAS**, the existing laws and ordinances regarding the proper maintenance and removal of trees and other vegetation within the City of Muntinlupa should be further strengthened by amending and supplementing certain provisions of City Ordinance 15-143, particularly the fees and penal provisions;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, AS IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED**, by the 9<sup>th</sup> Sangguniang Panlungsod of Muntinlupa, in Session assembled that:

**SECTION 1.** *Repealing certain provisions of Muntinlupa City Ordinance No. 15-143.* City Ordinance No. 15-143 otherwise known as "An Ordinance Prescribing Guidelines and Procedures on the Planting, Maintenance and Removal of Trees (Cutting, Tree-Balling, Trimming, Pruning) and Government Infrastructure Projects and Providing Penalties Therefore", shall be repealed by the following provisions.

**SECTION 2. Unauthorized Cutting of Trees.** It shall be unlawful to cut or uproot trees along roads, highways, parks, river ways and other declared public and private places without securing the necessary permit from the EPNRO. It is also the policy of the City that the preferred way of removing trees is through earth-balling. Any tree and other vegetation may be cut if and only if earth-balling of such tree and is impractical as assessed by EPNRO.

- a. **Nonetheless, the removal of trees shall be considered as the last option. However, the removal or cutting of trees may be allowed if any of the following circumstances are present;**
- b. **The tree that will be cut is over-mature, diseased or defective, and is posing hazards to lives and properties;**
- c. **The tree will be unavoidably affected by infrastructure projects, such as road widening, bridges, building constructions, and government projects;**
- d. **When such tree poses imminent danger to the general public.**

**SECTION 3. Requirements.** The following are the conditions *sine qua non* for the issuance of Tree-Cutting, Tree-Trimming, Tree-Pruning and Tree-Balling Permits:

- a. For trees in private lands, only the owner of the land on which the tree/s to be cut is located or his duly authorized representative is qualified to apply for a Tree-Cutting or Tree-Balling Permit.
- b. For this purpose, the representative must present before the EPNRO the duly signed Letter of Authorization by the said owner, which must be also accompanied by the any government Identification Card (ID) of the latter.





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- c. The tree/s to be earth-balled shall be transplanted within the jurisdiction of Muntinlupa City.
- d. The transplanting of earth-balled trees shall be the obligations of the permittee. They shall maintain and protect the transplanted tree for a period of at least one (1) year.
- e. For every transplanted tree that did not survive after six (6) months, the permittee shall conduct replacement plantings preferably with sapling of premium or indigenous species.
- f. The applicant shall submit the following:
- a) **Application letter;**
  - b) **Photocopy of the Transfer Certificate of Title where the tree(s) is(are) located;**
  - c) **Photographs of tree(s) to be removed/cut;**
  - d) **Sketch map showing the location of the tree(s) to be removed/cut;**
  - e) **Clearance from the homeowners' association, if the tree to be removed/cut is within/inside the village or subdivision;**
  - f) **Endorsement from the Barangay having jurisdiction over the tree(s) to be remove/cut; and**
  - g) **ECC, if required and minutes of public consultation concerning the removal of tree**

**SECTION 4. Fee for Trimming, Pruning and Earth-balling.** All applications for Tree-Trimming, Tree-Pruning or Tree-Balling Permits shall not be issued by the EPNRO unless a payment of the Permit Fee amounting to Five Hundred Pesos (Php500.00) is made to the Treasurer's Office.

The **EPNRO** shall cause the conduct of the necessary inspection and evaluation of the area including the inventory of trees covered by the application, and to determine the necessity to cut the tree(s).

**SECTION 5. Fee for every tree cut, removed, killed or rendered dead.** There shall likewise be monetary compensation to the City for each and every tree cut, removed, killed or rendered dead. The proceeds from the collection of these fees shall accrue to the City and be devoted exclusively to the activities for environmental protection. The following summary of fees shall be imposed prior to the cutting of the tree(s):

Age of the Tree	Required Fees and replacements per tree removed
Trees less than 10 years old	Php1,000.00 plus 25 packs of seeds plus either five (5) sacks of garden soil or 10 pieces of saplings





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Trees that are 10 to 30 years old	Php10,000.00 plus 50 packs of seeds plus either 10 sacks of garden soil or 25 pieces of saplings
Trees that are 31 to 49 years old	Php30,000.00 plus 100 packs of seeds plus either 20 sacks of garden soil or 50 pieces of saplings
Trees that are 50 years old and above	Php50,000.00 plus 150 packs of seeds plus either 30 sacks of garden soil or 75 pieces of saplings

As a safeguard to determine the actual age of trees, the declarations made by the applicant shall be without prejudice to the conduct of a post-cutting inspection by the EPNRO. If the actual age of trees cut or removed are greater than the one declared by the applicant, the said applicant shall pay the difference in fees and provide the difference in replacements.

**SECTION 6. Height and Species of Replacement Saplings.** The height of saplings shall be at least four (4) feet. Moreover, the kind or species of saplings to be given as replacement shall be subject to the discretion of the EPNRO, taking into consideration the importance, strength, durability, scarcity or rarity, beauty and utility of the trees to be cut, or whether the same belongs to indigenous or premium species.

**SECTION 7. Actual Cutting or Removal of Trees.** Upon the issuance of the necessary permit, the cutting, earth-balling, trimming or pruning of trees shall be done by the applicant or by his agent. Nonetheless, the applicant may file a request with the ESC to conduct the tree-cutting activity at the latter's prescribed rate per tree. The ESC shall not conduct any tree-cutting activity unless the fee for the same has been paid in full.

**SECTION 8. Penalties for the Unauthorized Cutting of Trees.** To preserve and enhance the growth of trees already existing or those planted in accordance with three preceding Sections, the cutting of trees and its branches shall be prohibited in the absence of the necessary permit issued by the EPNRO, except in fortuitous events or in times of urgent emergencies when public safety and order is affected.

**Nevertheless,** any person who intentionally cuts, earth-balls, prunes, trims or in any manner damages any part of a tree without securing the necessary permit shall pay a fine amounting to **Php2,500.00** per tree cut, earth-balled or damaged, in addition to the payment of Inspection Fees, other required fees and replacements under Sections 4, 5 and 6 of this Ordinance.





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**SECTION 9. Cleanup Operations.** In addition to the penalties provided in this Ordinance, the permittee shall be responsible in containing, removing and cleaning-up the same at his own expense: Provided, that in the event that emergency clean-up operations are necessary, and the permittee fails to immediately undertake the same, the ESC, in coordination with other government agencies concerned, shall conduct the containment, removal and clean-up operations. The City Government shall be entitled to reimbursements equivalent to twice the amount of expenses incurred in the said operations. The reimbursement shall be paid by the permittee upon notice by the City Government.

If the foregoing is committed by a corporation, trust, firm, partnership, association or any juridical person, the reimbursement shall be paid by the President, General Manager, and other guilty officers, of such corporation, trust firm, partnership, association or entity, without prejudice to the filing of a civil action against said juridical person.

**SECTION 10. Separability Clause.** If for any reason or reasons any part or provisions of this ordinance shall be held to be unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SECTION 11. Repealing Clause.** City Ordinance 15-143 is hereby repealed in so far inconsistent with this Ordinance. Part of City Ordinance 15-143 which are harmonious with provisions hereof, if any, are deemed adopted.

**SECTION 12. Effectivity Clause.** This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its completion of its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

**ENACTED**, by the 9<sup>th</sup> Sangguniang Panlungsod of Muntinlupa this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020, on its 74<sup>th</sup> Regular Session.

CONCURRED:

DISTRICT 1:

COUN. ATTY. RAUL R. CORRO  
Member

COUN. ALEXSON V. DIAZ  
Member

COUN. PATY KATY C. BONCAYAO  
Member

COUN. LOUISITO A. ARCIAGA  
Member

COUN. ALLAN REY A. CAMILON  
Member

COUN. TING NIEFES  
Member





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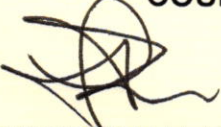
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COUN. STEPHANIE G. TEVES  
Member

  
COUN. IVEE RHIA A. TADEFA  
Member

DISTRICT 2:

  
COUN. ENGR. MARISSA C. RONGAVILLA  
Member

  
COUN. FRANCIS IAN T. BAGATSING  
Member


  
COUN. MARK LESTER M. BAES  
Member

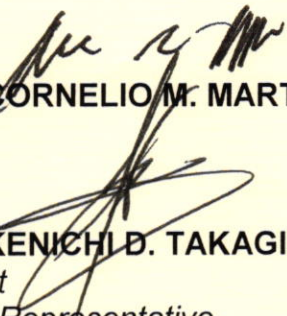
(MATERNITY LEAVE)  
COUN. MA. DHESIREE G. AREVALO  
Member

  
COUN. ENGR. MAMERTO T. SEVILLA, JR.  
Member

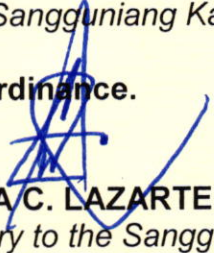
  
COUN. ENGR. ARLENE D. HILAPO  
Member

  
COUN. CORNELIO M. MARTINEZ  
Member

  
COUN. WALTER A. ARCILLA  
President  
Sectoral Representative  
Association of Barangay Chairman

  
COUN. KENICHI D. TAKAGI, JR.  
President  
Sectoral Representative  
Federation of Sangguniang Kabataan

I HEREBY CERTIFY, as to the correctness of the foregoing Ordinance.

  
CECILIA C. LAZARTE  
Secretary to the Sanggunian



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ATTESTED:

ARTEMIO A. SIMUNDAC  
City Vice-Mayor/Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

ATTY. JAIME R. FRESNEDI  
City Mayor

Date: 05 JAN 2021

Norie/9<sup>th</sup> SP