

As

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE]**A
BILL***further to amend the Cutting of Trees (Prohibition) Act, 1992*

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Cutting of Trees (Prohibition) Act, 1992 (XVIII of 1992) for purposes appearing herein after, and for matters ancillary thereto;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title, extent and commencement. - (1) This Act may be called the Cutting of Trees (Prohibition) (Amendment) Act, 2023.

(2) It shall extend to the Islamabad Capital Territory

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 2, Act XVIII of 1992.- In the Cutting of Trees (Prohibition) Act, 1992 (XVIII of 1992), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 2,-

(i) after clause (a), the following new clause shall be inserted, namely,-

“(aa) ‘Banyan tree’ large fig tree (*Ficus benghalensis*) native to India and Pakistan that that send out roots which grow downward into the ground and form new supporting trunks and has spreading branches which send out aerial roots that grow down to the ground and form secondary trunks around the host tree;’ and

(ii) in clause (d), the word “and” occurring at the end shall be omitted and thereafter, the following new clause shall be inserted, namely,-

“(da) ‘third zone’ means Islamabad Capital Territory, (ICT); and”.

3. Amendment of section 3, Act XVIII of 1992.- In the said Act, in section 3, in sub-section (1),-

(i) in clause (i), the word “and” occurring at the end shall be omitted; and

(ii) in clause (ii), for the full stop “.” occurring at the end a semi-colon and the word “; and” shall be substituted and thereafter the following new clause shall be added, namely,-

“(iii) in third zone, if the tree is of Banyan tree”.

4. Amendment of section 4, Act XVIII of 1992.- In the said Act, in section 4,-

- (i) in clause (i), for the phrase "five thousand rupees", the phrase "twenty thousand rupees and shall be subject for every such subsequent offence for one hundred thousand rupees" shall be substituted; and
- (ii) in clause (ii), for the phrase "two thousand and five hundred rupees", the phrase "ten thousand rupees and shall be subject for every such subsequent offence for one hundred thousand rupees" shall be substituted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Pakistan is among countries most vulnerable to climate change and global warming. Urban areas especially capital city Islamabad is being denuded of trees in order to set up commercial areas to provide jobs and also to meet the housing needs of those coming to cities to work. To protect the environment afforestation and restoring all old trees in the capital city will preserve and protect natural green environment of the city. In this regard Banyan trees (bargad) are very important because they are not only like natural canopies where people gather to protect themselves from scorching sun but also add to the beauty of the city. They have also provided structure to the city. Among all the species, the banyan trees are the only ones that have survived for centuries at various spots in and around the federal capital, and have cultural value and there are more than 176 centuries-old banyan trees in Islamabad. As bargad trees remain green all the year round and consume less water for having aerial roots, these were the best choice not only for plantation but also for preservation. Furthermore, its shade has a soothing effect, especially considering the times when there was no electricity or even cold water. The situation clamors to introduce the said bill.

2. The Bill has been designed to achieve the above purpose.

**SENATOR PALWASHA MOHAMMED ZAI KHAN
MEMBER-IN- CHARGE**