

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'04 JUN 30 P4:16

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S E N A T E

S. No. 331

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The coconut industry, involving some 3.3 million hectares of land continues to be among the top earners of the country and is a source of income for at least thirty percent (30%) of the country's total population. Today, a new plague threatens the coconut industry in the Philippines. This is the rampant cutting of coconut trees as coconut farms promise nothing to coconut farmers but the prospect of continued impoverishment.

During his presidency, Ferdinand Marcos established the Coconut Levy, total collections of which between 1973 to 1992 have been estimated at a staggering P9.695 billion. Although the Coconut Levy was for all intents and purposes a tax on coconut products collected from coconut farmers, provisions of P.D. No. 961, E.O. No. 490 and P.D. No. 1468 attempted to legalize the allegation that the coco levy funds partook of the nature of private funds. To quote Article III Sec. 5 of P.D. 1468: "xxx the intention being that said fund and disbursements thereof as herein authorized for the benefit of the coconut farmers shall be owned by them, in their own private capacities xxx". This became the basis for the use of the coco levy funds for the acquisition of assets which benefited a few individuals close to the powers that be, but had, however little to do with the welfare of coconut farmers in general. These assets include:

- (a) majority shares of stock of the United Coconut Planters' Bank (UCPB) the so-called coconut farmers' bank, which however for all intents and purposes is no different from the ordinary profit-oriented, risk-shy commercial bank;
- (b) one-third (1/3) of the shares of stock of San Miguel Corporation;
- (c) the United Coconut Planters Life Assurance Corporation;
- (d) the Coconut Marketing Corporation;
- (e) the United Coconut Chemicals, Inc; and
- (f) the luxurious Coconut Palace.

Notwithstanding the dubious effects of the Marcos Decrees, the coconut levy funds should in justice be restored to the 1.4 million farmers who became involuntary contributors to the fund, but have yet to realize beneficial returns from their contributions.

This bill seeks to correct the injustice wrought upon the coconut farmers by strengthening the Philippine Coconut Authority to better serve the needs and interests of the coconut farmers. This bill also reaffirms the Coconut Levy Funds as Public Funds, and reconstitutes the same in the Coconut Industry

Rehabilitation and Development Fund which will be placed in trust for, and for the benefit of the farmers, to be administered by the Philippine Coconut Authority, subject to agreement between the Authority and accredited national organizations of small farmers.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Osmeña III".

SERGIO OSMEÑA III
Senator

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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AN ACT

STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY, INCREASING THE SMALL COCONUT FARMERS' PARTICIPATION IN, AND THEIR BENEFITS FROM, THE COCONUT INDUSTRY, AND BOLSTERING THE INDUSTRY'S DEVELOPMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBERED FOURTEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-EIGHT, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED COCONUT INDUSTRY CODE.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section, Article 1 of Presidential Decree No. 1468, as
2 amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 "SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared to be the
4 policy of the State to promote the rapid integrated and sustainable
5 development and growth of the coconut and other palm oil industry in all
6 its aspects and to ensure that the coconut farmers, ESPECIALLY THE
7 SMALL COCONUT FARMERS, TILLERS, WORKERS AND OWNER-
8 CULTIVATORS WHO COMPRISE THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY
9 OF THE PEOPLE IN THE COCONUT INDUSTRY, become direct
10 participants in, and beneficiaries of, such development and growth."

11 SEC. 2. Paragraph (b), (c), (e) and (h) of Section 3, Article II of the same
12 Decree are hereby amended to read as follows:

13 "b) to formulate and implement a nationwide replanting program using
14 RECOMMENDED [precocious] high-yielding [hybrid] seed nuts and, in the

1 discretion of the Philippine Coconut Authority, the program may include
2 new areas provided that existing coconut farmers shall always be given
3 priority;

4 c) to distribute, for free, to coconut farmers the HIGH-
5 YIELDING[hybrid] coconut seed nuts herein authorized to be acquired;

6 e) in coordination with the HIGH-YIELDING [hybrid] coconut seed
7 farm herein authorized to be established, to conduct genetic and
8 agricultural researches and investigations for the improvement of the
9 coconut palm productivity;

10 h) to regulate the marketing and the exportation of ALL COCONUT
11 PRODUCTS [copra] and by-products by establishing standards for
12 domestic trade and export and, thereafter, to conduct an inspection o of all
13 COCONUT PRODUCTS [copra] and its by-products proposed for export
14 to determine if they conform to the standards established;

15 The same Section is hereby further amended by deleting paragraphs (j)
16 and (p) and adding a new paragraph to be denominated as paragraph (k), which
17 shall read as follows:

18 K) TO ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST, BUT NOT TO CONTROL
19 OR DIRECT, THE GENUINE SMALL COCONUT FARMERS, TILLERS,
20 WORKERS AND OWNER-CULTIVATORS TO FORM THEIR OWN
21 INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION, FREE FROM DOMINANCE OR
22 PATERNALISM BY GOVERNMENT, LANLORDS OR OTHER
23 INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS, SO THAT THEY WILL BE IN A POSITION
24 TO PROTECT AND ADVANCE THEIR OWN INTERESTS AND THE
25 DEVELOPMENT OF THE COCONUT AND OTHER PALM OIL
26 INDUSTRY IN COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH THE
27 AUTHORITY AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

28 The paragraphs (k), (c) and (r) are hereby adjusted as paragraphs (j), (p),
29 and (q), respectively.

1 Section 3. The first paragraph of Section 4, Article of the same Decree is
2 hereby amended to read as follows:

3 "SEC. 3. **Governing Board.** – The corporate powers and duties of
4 the Authority shall be vested in and exercised by a GOVERNING Board of
5 Nine (9) [seven (7)] members to be appointed by the President AS
6 FOLLOWS:

7 A) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE SCIENCE AND
8 TECHNOLOGY SECTOR;

9 B) THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT
10 AUTHORITY;

11 C) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
12 AGRARIAN REFORM;

13 D) THREE (3) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SMALL
14 COCONUT FARMERS TO BE APPOINTED FROM AMONG THE
15 NOMINEES OF THE SMALL COCONUT FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS
16 ACCREDITED BY THE AUTHORITY TO COME ONE EACH FROM
17 LUZIN, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO; AND

18 E) TWO (2) REPRESENTATIVES TO COME ONE EACH
19 FROM AMONG THE NOMINEES OF THE RESPECTIVE
20 ORGANIZATION OF COCONUT PRODUCTS MANUFACTURERS AND
21 COCONUT BY-PRODUCTS PROCESSORS ACCREDITED BY THE
22 AUTHORITY;

23 F) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE NON-GOVERNMENT
24 ORGANIZATION (NGO) INVOLVED IN THE COCONUT INDUSTRY;

25 THE PRESIDENT SHALL DESIGNATE FROM AMONG THE
26 MEMBERS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD."

27 SEC. 4. Section 6, Article II of the same Decree is hereby amended to
28 read as follows:

1 “SEC. 6. *Compensation of the Members of the Board.* – The
2 members of the Board shall receive a *per diem* of [two hundred] TWO
3 THOUSAND pesos for each meeting actually attended: *Provided*, That
4 such *per diem* shall not exceed [one] TEN thousand pesos during any
5 month for each member.”

6 SEC. 5. A new Article is hereby inserted after the last section of Article II
7 to be denominated as Article III to read as follows:

8 ARTICLE III

9 COCONUT FARMERS

10 “SECTION 1. *PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARIES.* – WITHOUT
11 PREJUDICE TO THE RIGHTS OF OTHER SECTORS, THE COCONUT
12 FARMERS, ESPECIALLY THE SMALL COCONUT FARMERS, WHO
13 CULTIVATE THE LAND PERSONALLY OR PHYSICALLY EITHER AS A
14 TENANT OR LESSEE, FARM WORKER, OWNER-CULTIVATOR AND
15 WHO DERIVE THEIR MAJOR SOURCE OF INCOME FROM THE
16 COCONUT FARM, AND THROUGH THEM THE ENTIRE COCONUT
17 INDUSTRY SHALL BE THE PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARIES OF THIS ACT.

18 “SEC. 2. *SELF-INITIATIVE AND SELF-RELIANCE.* – IN ORDER
19 TO BENEFIT FROM THE INDUSTRY ON A SUSTAINABLE AND LONG-
20 TERM BASIS, THE SMALL COCONUT FARMERS SHALL DEVELOP
21 SELF-INITIATIVE AND SELF-RELIANCE FOR EFFECTIVE
22 PARTICIPATION IN, AND OPTIMUM BENEFITS FROM, THE
23 DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRY, AFTER CONSULTATION AND
24 UPON REQUEST OF THE FARMERS, AND FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE
25 AUTHORITY SHALL EXTEND TO THEM ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE.

26 “SEC. 3. *ASSISTANCE TO SMALL FARMERS.* – UPON THE
27 REQUEST OF THE COCONUT FARMERS, THE AUTHORITY SHALL
28 ASSIST THEM IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS, AMONG OTHERS;

1 "A) INFORMING AND MAKING THEM DEEPLY AWARE OF
2 THEIR SITUATION, THEIR PROBLEMS, THE PROBLEMS OF THE
3 COCONUT INDUSTRY INCLUDING THE OPPORTUNITIES AND
4 PROSPECTS THEREOF, AND AT THE SAME TIME ACCEPT
5 INFORMATION FROM THE FARMERS THEMSELVES OF THEIR
6 UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR OWN PROBLEMS AND
7 OPPORTUNITIES;

8 "B) ENCOURAGING AND HELPING THEM FORM AND
9 STRENGTHEN THEIR VOLUNTARY AND INDEPENDENT
10 ORGANIZATIONS; ELIMINATING THE OBSTACLES TO THE
11 EXERCISE OF THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-ORGANIZATION THRU A
12 PROGRAM OF INFORMATION, INDUCATINO AND TRAINING AND
13 THROUGH OTHER WAYS OF FACILITATING THE ESTABLISHMENT
14 AND GROWTH OF THEIR OWN ORGANIZATION(S);

15 "C) TEACHING AND TRAINING THEM DIRECTLY OR THRU
16 APPROPRIATE AGENCIES, SUCH AS THE DEPARTMENT OF
17 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, TO FULLY UTILIZE THE COCONUT
18 AND ITS BY-PRODUCTS LIKE COCONUT MEAT AND BAGASSE,
19 COCONUT OIL, COCONUT WATER, COCONUT SHELL, COCONUT
20 COIR AND DUST, AND OTHER BY-PRODUCTS;

21 "D) ASSISTING THEM IN ACQUIRING THE LATEST
22 TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS IN RAISING FUNDS
23 FOR THE PROCESSING OF ALL COCONUT PRODCUTS AND BY-
24 PRODUCTS ON THE COTTAGE, VILLAGE, AND HIGHER LEVELS;

25 "E) PROVIDING THEM THE KNOW-HOW AND SKILLS FOR
26 THE EFFICIENT MARKETING OF THEIR COCONUT PRODUCTS AND
27 BY-PRODUCTS INDIVIDUALLY OR THROUGH THEIR
28 ORGANIZATION/COOPERATIVES BOTH IN THE DOMESTIC AND IN
29 THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET SO THAT THE BENEFITS

1 THEREFROM WILL DIRECTLY ACCRUE TO THEM RATHER THAN TO
2 MIDDLEMEN;

3 “F) COOPERATING WITH THEM INDIVIDUALLY AND
4 COLLECTIVELY, THROUGH THEIR ORGANIZATIONS, IN THE
5 MONITORING OF ILLEGAL CUTTING OF COCONUT TREES, ILLEGAL
6 CONVERSION OF COCONUT LANDS TO OTHER AGRICULTURAL OR
7 NON-AGRICULTURAL USES, AND ALL CASES OF ILLEGAL
8 EJECTMENT OR EXPLOITATION OF COCONUT FARMERS,
9 TENANTS, LESSEES, WORKERS AND OWNER-CULTIVATORS, AND
10 FILING, OR ASSISTING THEM IN THE FILING AND PROSECUTION
11 OR, APPROPRIATE ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL CASES TO
12 HELP PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS;

13 “G) HELPING THEM IN THE PRODUCTION AND/OR
14 ACQUISITION OF ORGANIC FERTILIZERS AS WELL AS OF BIO-
15 ORGANIC TECHNIQUES OF SOIL ENRICHMENT AND BEST
16 CONTROL; AND MOST IMPORTANTLY.

17 “H) HELPING THEM IN PRESSING FOR THE IMMEDIATE
18 AND THOROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF AGRARIAN REFORM IN ALL
19 COCONUT LANDS.”

20 SEC. 6. Upon the effectivity of this Act, every reference in existing laws to
21 the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation (COCOFED) shall, subject to the
22 established rights of said federation and consistent with the letter and spirit of this
23 Act, pertain to such genuine national organization, coalition, confederation, or
24 association of coconut farmers accredited by the Philippine Coconut Authority as
25 truly representing the coconut farmers, especially small coconut farmers, for all
26 purposes favorable to them.

27 SEC. 7. The whole of Article III, entitled Levies, of Presidential Decree No.
28 1468, as amended, is hereby renumbered as Article IV and substituted to read as
29 follows:

1 "ARTICLE IV

2 "LEVIES

3 "SECTION 1. *LEVIES AND PUBLIC FUNDS.* – ALL COCONUT
4 LEVIES ARE HEREBY REAFFIRMED AND DECLARED AS PUBLIC
5 TRUST FUNDS.

6 "SEC. 2. *COCONUT INDUSTRY REHABILITATION AND*
7 *DEVELOPMENT FUNDS.* – ALL THE FUNDS ESTABLISHED FROM
8 THE PROCEEDS OF THE LEVIES, INCLUDING THE COCONUT
9 INVESTMENT FUND, THE COCONUT CONSUMERS STABILIZATION
10 FUND, THE COCONUT INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT FUND, THE
11 COCONUT DEVELOPMENT FUND, AND OTHERS, AS WELL AS ALL
12 THE ASSETS ACQUIRED OR ESTABLISHED THEREFROM, AND ALL
13 THE OTHER ASSETS SET UP USING THE COCONUT LEVY
14 COLLECTIONS SHALL FORM PART OF A SINGLE FUND WHICH IS
15 HEREBY CREATED AND WHICH SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE
16 COCONUT INDUSTRY REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND
17 (CIRDF).

18 "SEC. 3. *NATURE AND PRIMARY PURPOSE OR CIRDF.* – THE
19 COCONUT INDUSTRY REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND
20 SHALL NOT BE PART OF THE GENERAL FUNDS OF THE NATIONAL
21 GOVERNMENT AND SHALL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE
22 REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE COCONUT
23 INDUSTRY AND THE UPLIFTMENT OF THE LIVES OF THOSE
24 DEPENDENT ON IT, PARTICULARLY THE SMALL COCONUT
25 FARMERS, THE CIRDF SHALL BE SUBJECT TO AUDITING RULES
26 AND REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT.

27 "SEC. 4. *CIRDF UNDER THE PCA.* – THE COCONUT INDUSTRY
28 REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND SHALL BE HELD,

1 ADMINISTERED, UTILIZED, AND/OR DISPOSED OF UNDER THE
2 PROVISION OF SECTION IN HEREOF.

3 "SEC. 5. *INVENTORY OF COCONUT LEVY-FUNDED ASSETS.* –
4 THE AUTHORITY AND THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT SHALL
5 IMMEDIATELY CONDUCT A THOROUGH INVENTORY OF ALL
6 ASSETS ACQUIRED OR FUNDED BY THE COCUNT LEVY
7 COLLECTIONS, WITHIN SIX (6) MONTHS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY
8 OF THIS ACT, THE AUTHORITY AND THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT
9 SHALL MAKE A PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THEIR FINDINGS.

10 "SEC. 6. *AUDITING OR EXPENDITURES MADE OUT OF THE*
11 *LEVY COLLECTIONS.* – THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT SHALL
12 CONDUCT AN AUDIT OF ALL THE DISBURSEMENT OR
13 EXPENDITURES MADE OUT OF THE LEVY COLLECTIONS WITH THE
14 END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING WHETHER THOSE EXPENDITURES
15 ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE
16 LEVIES WERE COLLECTED AND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS
17 CONCERNING THE DISBURSEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS. ON THE
18 IMPROPER OR ILLEGAL USE OF THE LEVY COLLECTIONS, THE
19 COMMISSION ON AUDIT, THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION AND
20 GOOD GOVERNMENT, THE AUTHORITY, THE OFFICE OF THE
21 SOLICITOR GENERAL AND OTHER CONCERNED GOVERNMENT
22 AGENCIES SHALL IMMEDIATELY INSTITUTE THE NECESSARY
23 LEGAL ACTIONS WITH THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF RECOVERING
24 THE AMOUNT(S) IMPROPERLY USED.

25 "SEC. 7. *TRANSFER OF COCONUT LEVY-FUNDED ASSETS TO*
26 *THE PCA* – IN COORDINATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE
27 SOLICITOR GENERAL AND OTHER APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT
28 AGENCIES, THE AUTHORITY SHALL DRAW UP PLANS OF ACTION
29 FOR THE IMMEDIATE TRANSFER OF THE COCONUT LEVY-FUNDED

1 ASSETS TO THE AUTHORITY AS THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE
2 FUND.

3 "SEC. 8. *SAFEGUARDING AND UTILIZATION OF LEVY-FUNDED*
4 *ASSETS.* – THE AUTHORITY SHALL, IN COORDINATION WITH AND
5 WITH THE CONSENT OF, THE COCONUT FARMERS AND THEIR
6 ORGANIZATIONS, STUDY AND IMPLEMENT THE BEST MANNER BY
7 WHICH EACH OF THESE COCONUT LEVY-FUNDED. ASSETS CAN BE
8 SAFEGUARDED AND EVENTUALLY UTILIZED FOR THE PROGRAMS
9 THAT THE AUTHORITY SHALL PURSUE, WITH THE EMPHASIS ON,
10 AND PRIORITY FOR, THE UPLIFTMENT OF THE LIVES OF THE
11 COCONUT FARMERS.

12 "SEC. 9. *UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK.* – THE
13 AUTHORITY, AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE CIRDF, SHALL REDEFINE
14 OR REDIRECT THE POLICIES OF THE UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS
15 BANK TOWARDS THE PURSUANCE OF THE VERY PURPOSE FOR
16 WHICH IT WAS ESTABLISHED, THAT IS TO PROVIDE THE COCONUT
17 FARMERS READILY AVAILABLE CREDIT FACILITIES AT
18 REASONABLE RATES.

19 "SEC. 10. *COLLECTION OF UNCOLLECTED COCONUT LEVIES.*
20 – THE AUTHORITY SHALL MAKE A PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THE
21 COCONUT LEVIES THAT HAVE NOT YET BEEN COLLECTED. IT
22 SHALL DRAW UP AND IMPLEMENT A MORE EFFECTIVE AND
23 EFFICIENT WAY OF COLLECTING THE UNCOLLECTED LEVIES
24 WHICH SHALL BE ADDED TO THE CIRDF.

25 "SEC. 11. *ADMINISTRATION AND DISPOSITION OF ALL FUNDS*
26 *AND ASSETS.* – ALL FUNDS AND ASSETS HELD OR TO BE HELD BY
27 THE AUTHORITY IN TRUST FOR, AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF, THE
28 COCONUT FARMERS SHALL BE ADMINISTERED, UTILIZED AND/OR
29 DISPOSED OF WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY UNDER EITHER OF THE

1 FOLLOWING ARRANGEMENTS, DEPENDING ON THE MUTUAL
2 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AUTHORITY AND THE ACCREDITED
3 NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF THE COCONUT FARMERS:

4 "A) THE FUNDS AND ASSETS SHALL BE RETAINED BY THE
5 AUTHORITY, AND THE AUTHORITY SHALL ADMINISTER, UTILIZE
6 AND/OR DISPOSE OF THEM AS AGREED TO BY THE AUTHORITY
7 AND THE DULY REGISTERED AND ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS
8 OF THE SMALL COCONUT FARMERS, OR

9 "B) THE FUNDS AND ASSETS SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO
10 THE SMALL COCONUT FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS THRU A SINGLE
11 ACCREDITED NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FORMED AND
12 AUTHORIZED BY THEM, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COCONUT
13 FARMERS: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS AND
14 ASSETS SHALL BE GRADUAL, DEPENDING ON THE CAPABILITY OF
15 THE FARMERS AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS TO HANDLE THEM:
16 *PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT THE AUTHORITY SHALL ASSIST IN,
17 AND EXERCISE CONTINUING SUPERVISION OVER THE
18 ADMINISTRATION, UTILIZATION, AND DISPOSITION OF SAID FUNDS
19 AND ASSETS TO INSURE THEIR HONEST AND EFFECTIVE
20 MANAGEMENT FOR THE OPTIMUM BENEFIT OF THE COCONUT
21 FARMERS: *PROVIDED, FURTHERMORE*, THAT FOR THIS PURPOSE,
22 THE SIGNATURE AND APPROVAL OF THE AUTHORITY'S
23 ADMINISTRATOR OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE SHALL BE REQUIRED
24 FOR EVERY DEPOSIT, ACQUISITION, UTILIZATION, DISBURSEMENT
25 AND ALIENATION OF SAID FUNDS, AS WELL AS FOR EVERY
26 CONTRACT OR AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO CONCERNING SAID
27 FUNDS: *AND PROVIDED, FINALLY*, THAT THE AUTHORITY AND THE
28 ACCREDITED NATIONAL FEDERATION OF SMALL COCONUT
29 FARMERS SHALL PROMULGATE THE RULES AND REGULATIONS

1 FOR THE ENFORCEMENT AND OBSERVANCE OF ITS
2 SUPERVISORY POWER.”

3 SEC. 8. Articles IV and V of the same Decree are hereby renumbered as
4 Articles V and VI, respectively.

5 SEC. 9. The incumbent members of the Board of the Philippine Coconut
6 Authority shall continue to discharge their duties and responsibilities as such until
7 their successors shall have been appointed and qualified.

8 SEC. 10. Any person who is criminally liable as of the effectivity of this Act
9 for violating any of the laws relating to the coconut levies herein repealed or
10 amended shall remain so criminally liable and nothing herein shall extinguish
11 such criminal liability.

12 SEC. 11. The provisions of this Act are hereby declared to be separable.
13 If, for any reason, a provision of this Act is held void or unconstitutional, the same
14 shall not affect the validity of the rest of the provisions of this Act.

15 SEC. 12. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and
16 other issuance of parts thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed,
17 amended or modified accordingly.

18 SEC. 13. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in
19 the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

20 Approved.