

'14 FEB -4 P4 :43

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 2099

RECEIVED BY. *f*

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MALUNGGAY INDUSTRY, STRENGTHENING THE
DEVELOPMENT OF MALUNGGAY UTILIZATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Moringa oleifera, or most commonly known as Malunggay, is usually found in the backyards of most Filipino homes. Grown with little to no maintenance, this has taken the moniker, "The Miracle Tree", because all of its parts including leaves, pods, bark, seeds, fruits and roots have nutritional and healing properties.

Nearly all may assume that Malunggay is not at par with other vegetables, but many will be surprised of its versatility and capacity to contribute not only in feeding hungry mouths but also in revitalizing and strengthening people's physical well-being and socio-economic development.

Malunggay is a source of vitamins A and C, calcium, potassium, protein, and zinc, needed by children and adults alike. In the Philippines, Malunggay's leaves are customarily used in chicken soup and fish courses. Nowadays, Filipinos venture into the practice of adding these leaves to pastries and pasta dishes. Even its roots and seeds are used as seasoning.

Malunggay is further known to produce the most natural oil and is used in cooking and making salad. Its quality is being compared with olive oil.

Long used as traditional medicine, the Moringga plant has been acclaimed for its medicinal value. It is used to treat wounds, skin infections, cough, fever and respiratory ailments and improve lactation experienced by pregnant mothers.

It also has antioxidant properties and has been used by beauty and cosmetic companies in manufacturing skin care products. Additionally, it is also proven to have anti-aging, anti-diabetic, anti-tumor, and anti-microbial properties.

Malunggay has also been a very profitable source of livelihood for the marginalized sector. The plant has been processed into noodles, cookies, pretzels, and *pan de sal*. Agriculture stakeholders are urged to increase its production and vary its means of consumption or uses maximizing its potential in agribusiness and as a key solution to malnutrition chiefly in rural areas.

The maximum utilization of this commodity has been thoroughly developed through the years. Increased in diversification of the Malunggay's uses has found its potential for commercialization nationally and worldwide. It can generate local

employment, alleviate poverty, expand the agriculture sector, and be an answer to the sustainable needs of nutrition and health care in the country.

Through continuous promotion and promulgation of the plant's benefits to its consumers, lies the opportunity to establish the Malunggay as a legitimate industry. What has been identified as "poor man's vegetable" will be further recognized as a powerhouse of prosperity.

In view of the merits of this bill, approval in this regard is sincerely requested.



CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

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2 **THE DEVELOPMENT OF MALUNGGAY UTILIZATION AND FOR OTHER**
3 **PURPOSES**
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5 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
6 *Congress assembled:*

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8 **SECTION 1. Title** - This act shall be known as the "Malunggay Development Act of
9 2013"

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11 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
12 continuously develop the promising industry of Malunggay as an agribusiness and a
13 major source of pharmaceutic properties through improvement of research and
14 development, promote it as a means of livelihood for poverty alleviation, maximize its
15 utilization for health and nutrition, and discover its other potential co-products.
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17 **SECTION 3. Development of the Malunggay Industry.** - The Department of
18 Agriculture (DA), in consultation with the Department of Science and Technology, state
19 universities and colleges, farmer groups, local government units, and the private sector,
20 shall formulate necessary measures, programs and projects for the advancement and
21 industry-wide development of Malunggay, as follows:
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23 **Industry-wide development**

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25 1. Appropriate land usage for Malunggay to increase and sustain its productivity
26 and agricultural output.
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28 2. Organize systematic programs that could improve production of Malunggay
29 through its seeding, cultivation, harvesting, and proper processing.
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31 3. Augment intensive scientific research and studies over the propagation of
32 *Moringa oleifera* to maximize and verify its nutritional and medicinal properties,
33 and to diversify its other possible uses.
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35 4. Disseminate Malunggay's uses and benefits, along with its products, to stir
36 awareness through the public by the use of advertising, mass media, and
37 information tools.
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39 a. Share information on agricultural and manufacturing practice to determine
40 market opportunities for potential stakeholders.
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42 b. Collaborate with different organizations whose incorporators are concerned
43 with promotion of information and statistics on Malunggay industry.

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5. Explore possibility of Malunggay as a useful agricultural input (fertilizer) and animal feed to the farming sector, which can lessen their expenses over commercialized ones.
 6. Survey Malunggay's potential as an organic wonder in the international markets and prepare it as one of Philippines' major commercial products.
 7. Develop the Malunggay food industry and incorporate its different parts through food preparation, various recipes and diet because of its healthy contribution to the people's well-being.
 8. Create Malunggay communal fields and gardens for those in the marginalized or rural areas as to address their problems in food and health care and to somehow attain self-sufficiency in the rising needs of today's populace.
 9. Initiate alternative livelihood projects involving Malunggay for poverty alleviation and development of new products derived from them.

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SECTION 4. *Malunggay's energy potential.* - Invest on the biofuel potential of Malunggay oil as a sustainable alternative to fossil fuel for the country's power generation.

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SECTION 5. *National Malunggay Month.* – In recognition and providing importance to the the health, social, agricultural, and environmental value of the Malunggay plant, the month of November will be declared as the National Malunggay Month.

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SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

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SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

78 Approved,