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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



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S. B. No. 2206

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Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

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**AN ACT  
TO PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN THE PHILIPPINE BAMBOO INDUSTRY,  
PRESCRIBING ITS SCIENTIFIC PROPAGATION, PROCESSING, UTILIZATION, AND  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AS A PRIORITY PROGRAM, AND ALLOCATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Bamboo is in high demand, given its multiple uses. For instance, because of modern engineering techniques and technologies, bamboo is widely used for housing components like floors, panels, veneers, fences, walls, beams and trusses. Engineered bamboo may even substitute hardwood, steel and concrete in various construction applications.


Bamboo fibers can be woven into arts and crafts, also made into pulp for paper or clothing. It can also be used for energy, as activated charcoal, bamboo oil and even gas. Some of its extracts have food and beverage applications, even in pharmaceuticals. In many cases, bamboo is planted as a climate change mitigation strategy, particularly useful for soil erosion prevention and carbon capture.

By the end of 2012, the global market for bamboo amounted to US\$12 billion, expanding to around US\$20 billion by 2015.

Though bamboo is native to the Philippines and plays a significant role in Filipino life, both practically and culturally, the country exported only US\$30 million worth of bamboo products in 2009. Clearly, the Philippines can play a bigger role in the global bamboo industry—creating much-needed jobs in the Philippine countryside.

A sustained, multi-stakeholder effort is necessary to achieve such a goal. Line agencies, local government units, farmers and bamboo associations need to collaborate in support of a long-term initiative towards developing the Philippine bamboo industry. The proposed bill aims to establish and institutionalize such a policy for bamboo industry development.

With the imperative to create more jobs and boost agricultural productivity throughout the country, swift passage of the foregoing measure is earnestly sought.

  
**SENATOR SONNY ANGARA**



14 MAY -6 AM 11:29

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TO PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN THE PHILIPPINE BAMBOO INDUSTRY,  
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FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

**Section 1. Title.** This Act shall be known as the "*Philippine Bamboo Industry  
Development Act of 2013*".

**Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
promote industrialization and full employment based on sound agricultural development  
and agrarian reform, through industries that make full and efficient use of human and  
natural resources, and which are competitive in both domestic and foreign markets. To  
this end, the State shall promote the rapid, steady and continuous integrated  
development and growth of the Philippine bamboo industry, recognizing the bamboo's  
salient role as a strategic, indigenous, replenishable and renewable source of livelihood  
and tool for agricultural productivity. It is also hereby declared a policy of the State to  
acknowledge the great contribution of bamboo in environmental protection and  
management, more importantly in light of the perils of climate change.

**Section 3. Priority Program.** It is hereby authorized and prescribed, as a priority  
program, the scientific propagation, processing, utilization and business development of  
Philippine bamboo under the Philippine Bamboo Framework for Development.

**Section 4. Implementing Agency.** There is hereby created a Philippine Bamboo  
Industry Development Coordinating Council (PBIDCC), hereinafter referred to as the  
Council, administratively attached to the Department of Trade and Industry, charged  
with the main function of coordinating the activities of various agencies and

1 instrumentalities to ensure the accomplishment of the Philippine Bamboo Framework for  
2 Development.

3 If ever practicable and required, the Chairman of the Council shall submit an annual  
4 report to both Houses of Congress on the status of the implementation of this Act.

5

6 **Section 5. Composition.** The Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Coordinating  
7 Council shall be composed of the following:

- 8 a. Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry as Chairman (DTI);
- 9 b. Undersecretary of the Department of Trade and Industry-Regional Operations  
10 and Development Group (DTI-RODG) as Head of the Council Secretariat;
- 11 c. Executive Director of the Cottage Industry Development Center (CICT) as  
12 Head of the Bamboo Technical Working Group;
- 13 d. Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
- 14 e. Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA);
- 15 f. Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd);
- 16 g. Secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)
- 17 h. Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
- 18 i. Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
- 19 j. Representative from the League of Municipalities of the Philippines;
- 20 k. Representative from the League of Cities of the Philippines;
- 21 l. Representative from a reputable Private Industry Association;
- 22 m. Two (2) Representatives from Bamboo Farmers' / Producers' / Processors'  
23 Associations;
- 24 n. One (1) Representative from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs);

25

26 The Council shall regularly meet every two (2) months and may hold special meetings,  
27 whenever the need arises, to consider urgent matters upon the call of the Chairman or  
28 any eight (8) Council members.

29

30 **Section 6. Council Secretariat.** The Council Secretariat shall be headed by the  
31 Undersecretary of the Department of Trade and Industry-Regional Operations and  
32 Development Group (DTI-RODG). Technical support shall be provided by the Bamboo  
33 Technical Working Group as headed by the Executive Director of the Cottage Industry  
34 Development Center (CICT).

35

36 The Secretariat and technical staff shall be detailed from the existing personnel of the  
37 Department of Trade and Industry without prejudice to the designation by the Council of

1 such additional staff members as it may deem necessary for the proper discharge of its  
2 function and responsibilities.

3  
4 **Section 7. *Philippine Bamboo Framework for Development.*** The Philippine Bamboo  
5 Industry Development Coordinating Council shall formulate a ten-year Framework for  
6 Development, to be validated and updated annually. Such Framework shall serve as  
7 guide to the formulation and implementation of plans, projects, programs, and policies  
8 for the scientific propagation, processing, utilization, and business development of  
9 Philippine Bamboo. The Framework shall likewise provide for the following:

10  
11 a. *Site Identification* – The Department of Environment and Natural  
12 Resources in coordination with the Department of Agriculture,  
13 Department of Agrarian Reform and the local government units, shall  
14 identify the broad areas suitable for the planting and propagation of  
15 Philippine Bamboo, within six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act.  
16 The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall also  
17 establish nurseries focusing on species suitable for shoot production.

18  
19 b. *Scientific Propagation and Development* – The Department of  
20 Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Science  
21 and Technology shall establish sites and/or pilot farms for the  
22 cultivation and propagation of Philippine bamboo. The same also  
23 covers the transfer and improvement of appropriate technology and  
24 techniques, which will be utilized in every phase of bamboo production,  
25 processing, marketing and distribution. Particular emphasis shall be  
26 made on adoption and upgrading of post-harvest technology;

27  
28 c. *Production Support and Extension* – The Department of Environment  
29 and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of  
30 Trade and Industry, and the Department of Science and Technology in  
31 coordination with the Local Government Units, Non-Governmental  
32 Organizations, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority  
33 (TESDA), Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), state  
34 universities and colleges (SUCs), and other relevant government  
35 agencies, shall establish programs which promote and provide  
36 adequate training on adapting technologies to individuals engaged in  
37 propagation, production, processing, marketing and distribution of  
38 Philippine bamboo, strengthen farmers' / producers' / processors'

1 cooperatives and organizations involved in the sustainable and viable  
2 development of Philippine bamboo, and afford opportunities for  
3 participation in international conventions, workshops and fora.

4  
5 *d. Market Promotion and Business Development* – The Department of  
6 Trade and Industry, in coordination with Private Industry Associations,  
7 shall link-up agribusiness cooperatives and organizations directly with  
8 consumers' cooperatives and organizations, agro-processing  
9 companies, or exporters to provide marketing outlets and assure  
10 relatively higher and stable prices of bamboo. This also includes  
11 exploring national and international markets and facilitating the  
12 participation of local farmers, growers, and exporters in local and  
13 international conferences, trade fairs, expositions, and exhibits;

14  
15 *e. Infrastructure Development* – Access to post harvest facilities, storage  
16 and distribution/transport facilities of existing government agencies  
17 shall be facilitated by the Department of Environment and Natural  
18 Resources, Local Government Units, and Department of Agriculture.  
19 Assistance shall be given to qualified and viable  
20 farmers'/producers'/processors' cooperatives and organizations in the  
21 availment of soft loans or grants for the construction of post-harvest,  
22 processing and storage facilities;

23  
24 *f. Quality Assurance* – To ensure health and proper trading, the  
25 Department of Trade and Industry and Department of Science and  
26 Technology, respectively, shall establish and enforce standards in  
27 grading, sampling and inspection, tests and analysis, specifications,  
28 nomenclature, units of measurement, packaging, preservation,  
29 conservation or transportation of Philippine bamboo products and by-  
30 products; and

31  
32 *g. Philippine Bamboo Information Center* – The Department of Trade and  
33 Industry in coordination with Local Government Units shall establish a  
34 Philippine Bamboo Information Center in areas identified pursuant to  
35 Section 7a of this Act.

36  
37 **Section 8. Bamboo as Planting Material for Annual Reforestation and**  
38 **Rehabilitation.** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall use

1 Philippine Bamboo as planting material for at least twenty percent (20%) of its annual,  
2 reforestation and rehabilitation program.

3

4 **Section 9. *Bamboo Furniture Procurement Project.*** The Department of Education  
5 shall procure at least twenty five percent (25%) of the annual school desk and/or  
6 armchair requirements of public elementary and secondary schools nationwide with the  
7 use of Philippine Bamboo pursuant to schedules and arrangements to be agreed upon  
8 with the Department of Trade and Industry.

9

10 **Section 10. *Bamboo Livelihood Programs.*** The Department of Labor and  
11 Employment, in cooperation with the Council and local government units, shall  
12 formulate and implement Bamboo Livelihood Programs for preference employment of  
13 special groups and organizations of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), marginalized  
14 sectors, the unemployed, and retrenched Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). The  
15 program shall have an appropriate training and/or skills-retooling component to be  
16 provided by the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT) in  
17 coordination with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) or  
18 allied government institution.

19

20 **Section 11. *Philippine Bamboo Development Fund.*** To provide for the funding  
21 requirements for the propagation, production, processing, marketing and distribution of  
22 Philippine bamboo, there is hereby created a Philippine Bamboo Development Fund  
23 (PBDF), with an initial amount of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) to be provided by  
24 the Department of Budget and Management to the Department of Trade and Industry's  
25 Regional Operations and Development Group (DTI-RODG) while the budgetary  
26 requirements of cooperating agencies shall be incorporated in their respective locally-  
27 funded projects. Other sources of funds, including but not limited to borrowings from  
28 local and international funding institutions, shall also be authorized to further support the  
29 Fund.

30

31 **Section 12. *Incentives and Tax Exemptions.*** The Department of Agriculture may give  
32 cash reward in recognition of the best bamboo farm or plantation in the country.  
33 Bamboo farmers, producers, processors, and exporters shall also avail of the following  
34 incentives and tax exemptions:

35

36 a. Exemptions from taxes and duties subject to the provisions of Article  
37 62 of Republic Act 6938 or the Cooperative Code of the Philippines;

38

- 1 b. Exemption from the value-added tax in accordance with Section 103 of  
2 the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended;  
3
- 4 c. Exemption from taxes, fees and charges under Title One of Book Two  
5 of the Local Government Code of 1991 in accordance with Section  
6 133(n) of the said Code;  
7
- 8 d. Exemption from the payment of duties on the importation of  
9 agricultural equipment, machinery and implements as provided under  
10 Republic Act 8435 otherwise known as the *Agriculture and Fisheries*  
11 *Modernization Act* as amended by Republic Act 9281;  
12
- 13 e. Zero-rated value-added tax (VAT) on transactions involving the  
14 sale/purchase of organic farm inputs;  
15
- 16 f. Provision of preferential rates and special window to bamboo farmers,  
17 producers, processors, and exporters by the Land Bank of the  
18 Philippines;  
19
- 20 g. Credit, insurance, and financing services under Republic Act 8435  
21 otherwise known as the *Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization Act*  
22 and Republic Act 10000 otherwise known as the *Agri-Agra Reform*  
23 *Credit Act of 2009*;  
24
- 25 h. Incentives and benefits under Republic Act 9178 otherwise known as  
26 the *Barangay Micro Business Enterprises (BMBE's) Act of 2002* for  
27 bamboo business entity or enterprise whose total assets including  
28 those arising from loans but exclusive of the land on which the  
29 particular business entity's office, plant and equipment are situated,  
30 are not more than Three Million Pesos (P3,000,000.00); and  
31
- 32 i. Bamboo business entity or enterprise to be registered under the Board  
33 of Investments (BOI) shall be entitled to the existing pertinent fiscal  
34 incentives as provided by the Board of Investments or those provided  
35 under Executive Order No. 226, as amended, otherwise known as the  
36 Omnibus Investment Code of 1987.  
37

1 **Section 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** The Philippine Bamboo Industry  
2 Development Coordinating Council shall formulate and prescribe the necessary  
3 implementing rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

4

5 **Section 14. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws or parts thereof, decrees, orders, rules and  
6 regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified  
7 accordingly.

8

9 **Section 15. *Separability Clause.*** If any of the provisions of this Act is declare invalid,  
10 the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

11

12 **Section 16. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect immediately following its  
13 publication in two newspapers of general circulation or in the Official Gazette, whichever  
14 comes first.

15

16 *Approved,*