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SENATE

S.B. No. 418

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Introduced by SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

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**AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION OF MORINGA OLEIFERA LAMK, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS MALUNGGAY, MANDATING THE CREATION OF A FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Explanatory Note

This bill seeks to spur the production, processing, marketing, and distribution of *malunggay* in suitable areas of the country in order to acquire the benefits of the exceptionally nutritious and productive but underutilized tropical crop locally known as *malunggay*.

Malunggay is one of the most useful tropical trees. The relative ease with which it propagates through both sexual and asexual means and its low demand for soil nutrients and water after being planted makes its production and management easy. Among other uses of the malunggay as outlined by the paper entitled "*The potential of Moringa Oleifera for Agricultural and Industrial Uses*" written by Foidl N., Makkar H.P.S. and Becker K. from Nicaragua in 2001, malunggay's young leaves are edible and are commonly cooked and eaten like spinach or used to make soups and salads. They are an exceptionally good source of provitamin A, vitamins B, and C, iron, and the sulphur-containing amino acids methionine and cystine. The dry seeds can be ground to a powder and used for seasoning sauces while the roots from young plants can be dried and ground for use as a hot seasoning base.

There is a need for legislation to institutionalize the production, processing, marketing, and distribution of malunggay through a sustainable framework for development. This bill seeks to do just that by tasking the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, farmer's group, local government units, and the private sector, to formulate a five-year Framework for Development that shall serve as guide to the formulation and implementation of plans, programs and projects for the production, marketing, processing, and distribution of malunggay for food, medicinal, health, and commercial needs.

A Malunggay Development Fund (MDF) is being established to provide for the funding requirements for the production, marketing, and processing of malunggay, with an initial amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500,000,000.00) to be taken from the existing budget of the Department of Agriculture.

Finally, this bill tasks the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the municipal government concerned, to identify the broad areas suitable for the planting and propagation of malunggay, within six (6) months after the effectivity of this proposed measure.

In view of the benefits that will be gained by maximizing the yield and use of malunggay for agricultural, industrial, commercial and medicinal purposes, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator

SENATE  
S.B. No. 418

*[Handwritten signature]*

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**AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION OF MORINGA OLEIFERA LAMK, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS MALUNGGAY, MANDATING THE CREATION OF A FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** — This Act shall be known as the "Malunggay  
2 Development Act."  
3

4 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** — It is hereby declared the policy of the  
5 State to accelerate the growth and development of the rural areas, improve  
6 investment climate, competencies and efficiency of agribusiness, address  
7 the nutritional and health needs of our people, and promote the planting of  
8 malunggay as a source of livelihood, a means of attaining food security, and  
9 as an effective approach to poverty alleviation, through an all-out promotion  
10 of the production, processing, marketing, and distribution of malunggay in  
11 suitable areas of the country.  
12

13 **Sec. 3. Site Identification.** — The Department of Agriculture, in  
14 coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources,  
15 and the municipal government concerned, shall identify the broad areas  
16 suitable for the planting and propagation of malunggay, within six (6)  
17 months after the effectivity of this Act: Provided, That such site  
18 identification shall be reviewed at appropriate intervals to ensure  
19 consistency with the agrarian reform program and the national land use  
20 policy.  
21

22 **Sec. 4. Malunggay Framework for Development.** — The Department of  
23 Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Trade and Industry,  
24 Department of Environment and Natural Resources, farmer's group, local  
25 government units, and the private sector, shall formulate a five-year  
26 Framework for Development, to be validated and updated annually. Such  
27 Framework shall serve as guide to the formulation and implementation of  
28 plans, programs and projects for the production, marketing, processing and  
29 distribution of Malunggay for food, medicinal, health, and commercial  
30 needs, as envisioned in this Act. The Framework shall likewise provide for  
31 the following:  
32

33 a. The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and

- 1 Industry, shall link-up agribusiness cooperatives directly with  
2 consumers cooperatives, agro-processing companies, or exporters to  
3 provide marketing outlets for products with malunggay component;
- 4 b. To ensure health and proper trading, the Department of Agriculture  
5 shall establish and enforce standards in grading, sampling and  
6 inspection, tests and analysis, specifications, nomenclature, units of  
7 measurement, code of practice and packaging, preservation,  
8 conservation, and transportation of malunggay;
- 9 c. Technical support on research and extension, infrastructure  
10 development, financial and market information shall be provided by  
11 the Department of Agriculture, Department of Trade and Industry,  
12 Department of Science and Technology, Cooperative Development  
13 Authority, state universities and colleges and other relevant  
14 government agencies;
- 15 d. Access to post harvest facilities, storage and distribution/transport  
16 facilities of existing government agencies shall be facilitated.  
17 Assistance shall be given to qualified and viable farmers/growers  
18 cooperatives in the availment of soft loans or grants for the  
19 construction of post-harvest, processing and storage facilities;
- 20 e. The Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the state  
21 universities and colleges, the Department of Trade and Industry, and  
22 farmers organizations shall make good seeds and materials readily  
23 available to farmers/farmers' cooperatives to ensure high yield and  
24 good quality of malunggay; and
- 25 f. The Department of Agriculture shall establish Malunggay Information  
26 Center in areas identified pursuant to Section 3 of this Act  
27

28 **Sec. 5. Malunggay Development Fund (MDF).** — To provide for the  
29 funding requirements for the production, marketing, and processing of  
30 malunggay, there is hereby created a Malunggay Development Fund (MDF),  
31 with an initial amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500,000,000.00) to  
32 be taken from the existing budget of the Department of Agriculture.  
33 Thereafter, the MDF shall be sourced from the amounts be appropriated in  
34 the General Appropriations Act in the year following its enactment into law.  
35 Other sources of funds, including but not limited to borrowings from local  
36 and international financial institutions, shall also be considered to further  
37 support the Fund.  
38

39 **Sec. 6. Inter-Agency Committee.** — A Committee, composed of a  
40 representative from the Department of Agriculture, the Department of  
41 Agrarian Reform, the Department of Finance, the Bangko Sentral ng  
42 Pilipinas, the Land Bank of the Philippines, the Development Bank of the  
43 Philippines, the Cooperative Development Authority, the Department of  
44 Science and Technology, the Department of Trade and Industry, the  
45 Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Department of  
46 the Interior and Local Government and one (1) each from the small farmers  
47 and commercial producers sectors to be designated by the Secretary of  
48 Agriculture, shall formulate and prescribe, after public hearing and  
49 publication as required by law, the implementing rules and regulations in  
50 order to carry out the provisions of this Act. The representatives from the  
51 Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Industry shall  
52 be the chairman and the vice-chairman, respectively, of the Committee.  
53

54 The representatives from the government agencies must have a rank of at  
55 least an Assistant Secretary.  
56

1 The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture shall report to both Houses  
2 of Congress on the status of the implementation of this Act bi-annually.

3  
4 **Sec. 7. Repealing Clause.** — All laws or parts thereof, decrees, orders, rules  
5 and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
6 repealed or modified accordingly: Provided however, That nothing in this Act  
7 shall be construed or applied as amending the CARL and other laws on  
8 agrarian reform.

9  
10 **Sec. 8. Separability Clause.** — If any of the provisions of this Act is  
11 declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereby not affected  
12 thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

13  
14 **Sec. 9. Effectivity Clause.** — This Act shall take effect immediately after its  
15 publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

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18 Approved,