



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )

20 MAR -4 P4 :55

RECEIVED BY

SENATE  
S.B. No. 1400

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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**AN ACT URGING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND EXPORT PROMOTION OF THE MORINGA (*MORINGA OLEIFERA*), LOCALLY KNOWN AS "MALUNGGAY", AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article II, Section 21 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "*The State shall promote comprehensive rural development.*" Moreover, Article II, Section 15 states that "*The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.*"

Moringa (*Moringa oleifera*), locally known as *malunggay*, is a common green vegetable that grows in practically all soil types and weather conditions in the country. Known as the "miracle vegetable" and "nature's medicine cabinet" by researchers and health professionals around the world, moringa is a powerhouse of nutritional value. Moringa is used as natural maternal and childcare food supplement, as well as in the management of different ailments such as diabetes, hypertension, aging issues, and other lifestyle diseases. Last October 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) has recognized the value of moringa in its efforts against malnutrition, promoting it as a low-cost health enhancer in poor countries around the world.

In addition to its nutritional value, moringa trees can also help stabilize the soil and reduce deforestation. As such, given the global potential of moringa, the country should enhance the promotion of planting moringa. There is a need to expand the local and foreign market of moringa and its products to enhance the agribusiness potential of the crop as part of the country's poverty-alleviation and health care program. The development of a moringa-based agro-industry can help address the nutritional deficiency problems in the countryside and urban slums, increase on-farm, off-farm and non-farm enterprise incomes, improve the utilization of idle lands and urban spaces, and help reduce poverty.

Given the abovementioned circumstances, the immediate passage of this bill is necessary.



**IMEE R. MARCOS**  
Senator



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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Moringa Development Act."

2

3 Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
4 develop and promote a globally competitive moringa industry with the objective of  
5 increasing moringa farmers' income, addressing the nutritional and health needs of  
6 our people, and encouraging trade and industry.

7 Section 3. *Moringa Development* – The Department of Agriculture (DA), in consultation  
8 with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of  
9 Science and Technology (DOST), moringa growers' cooperatives and organizations,  
10 local government units, and the private sector, shall formulate a one-year framework  
11 to be validated and updated annually. Such framework shall serve as guide to the

1 formulation and implementation of plans, programs and projects for the production,  
2 marketing, processing and distribution of moringa for food and commercial needs, as  
3 envisioned in this Act. The framework shall likewise provide for the following:

- 4
- 5 a. National Framework – The DA, DOST, state universities and colleges (SUCs)  
6 and other stakeholders shall strengthen the conduct of researches on  
7 moringa particularly on areas of crop improvement, crop protection,  
8 harvesting and postharvest handling, supply chain analysis, marketing and  
9 promotion.
- 10
- 11 b. Investment Promotion and Facilitation – The DA and DTI shall develop  
12 programs establishing links between stakeholders in the moringa industry  
13 and Government Financial Institutions (GFIs) and other financial  
14 cooperatives. The DA and DTI shall likewise develop and implement  
15 programs that would establish reasonable and innovative investment  
16 incentives to attract more players in the moringa industry.
- 17
- 18 c. Export Promotion Support. – An integrated and strategic export promotion  
19 program for moringa industry shall be created. The export promotion  
20 program shall be responsive to market conditions, needs of the exporters,  
21 and possibilities offered by new products and technologies. It shall likewise  
22 provide foreign trade and export promotion activities through trainings,  
23 technical assistance, capacity building, generating awareness on export  
24 opportunities, and export planning assistance.
- 25
- 26 d. Strengthen Trade Policies and Support Network. – The DA shall be  
27 responsible in coordinating a consultative approach for the various stages  
28 of the trade policy making process. The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)  
29 shall lead the negotiation of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to provide a  
30 competitive environment for moringa exports abroad.

1 e. **Monitoring and Evaluation.** – The DA shall continuously monitor, track, and  
2 analyze the progress and outcomes of the programs to be implemented to  
3 determine over-all effectiveness.

4  
5 **Section 4. *Appropriation of Funds.*** – An amount of one hundred million pesos  
6 (P100,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated from any funds in the National Treasury not  
7 otherwise appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such  
8 funds as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be  
9 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

13  
14 **Section 6. *Separability Clause.*** – If any of the provisions of this Act is declared invalid,  
15 the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

16  
17 **Section 7. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its  
18 publication in a newspaper of general circulation or in the Official Gazette, whichever  
19 comes first.

Approved,

20