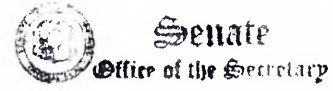


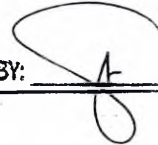
14

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



'22 AUG -1 P 1 :38

SENATE
S. No. 967

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

AN ACT
DEVELOPING THE PILI INDUSTRY, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE
PILI SUBSIDY FUND AND THE PILI RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
CENTER, AND DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON AS THE PILI
CAPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Sorsogon accounts for more than half of the country's total pili production at 4,052 metric tons in 2015, making it the largest supplier of pili in the country. It is also the major source of kernel, a by-product of pili, that most of the big processors in the Bicol Region use, based on the Value Chain Analysis (VCA) conducted by the local and national level planning (I-PLAN) component of the Department of Agriculture Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP).

The pili tree is fast gaining fame as the "tree of life", next to the coconut tree. Aside from kernel, its by-products have been found to have various uses. Its shell can be recycled to make charcoals and fashion accessories. The popular elemi essential oil uses the pili's pulp as one of its ingredients. Even its wood may be carved as furniture or décor at home.

Pili remains to be one of the high-value crops in Bicol and as they begin to be recognized in the global market, the help and support from the government through research, technology, and marketing will make pili a highly marketable product in the global scene.

The bill also seeks to recognize the province of Sorsogon as the Pili Capital of the Philippines to garner additional government support and budget allocation not only to maintain, promote, and protect the country's pili industry, but most importantly, to ensure its sustainability for the benefit of the farmers and other stakeholders.

Hence, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



GRACE POE

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

1 Section. 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Pili Industry Development Act.”

2 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
3 promote and support the viable pili industry in the country particularly its largest
4 producer, the province of Sorsogon. Towards this end, the country shall maintain and
5 protect the pili industry to ensure its sustainability for the benefits of the farmers and
6 other stakeholders. Hence, secure a source livelihood and industry, as well as to provide
7 an avenue for employment generation.

8 Sec. 3. *Creation of the Pili Research and Development Center.* – Within a year
9 from the approval of this Act, there shall be created the Pili Research and Development
10 Center in Sorsogon which shall be attached to the Sorsogon State University in
11 Sorsogon City.

12 Sec. 4. *Function of the Pili Research and Development Center.* – The *Pili*
13 *Research and Development Center* shall perform the following functions and duties:

14 a. Undertake and conduct researches and technical studies on the
15 development, production, management, and marketing of pili nuts and
16 its by-products;

17 b. Provide technical assistance and support to pili farmers and other
18 stakeholders in the Bicol Region;

- 1 c. Develop appropriate technologies beneficial to the pili industry;
- 2 d. Train faculty members and other research personnel who will undertake
- 3 research and development work on pili;
- 4 e. Publish research studies, papers, articles, and other works or writings
- 5 relating to *pili* on a regular basis with the end goal of benefiting pili
- 6 farmers and other stakeholder nationwide;
- 7 f. Coordinate with the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of
- 8 Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and
- 9 technology(DOST) and Department of Environment and Natural
- 10 Resources (DENR) to consolidate all polices, programs, and projects on
- 11 pili research and development.
- 12 g. Such other functions and duties necessarily or incidental to the
- 13 promotion and development of the pili industry.

14 Sec 5. *Pili Subsidy Fund.* – There is hereby created a Pili Subsidy Fund, which

15 shall be used to financially support the pili industry. The fund shall be directly and

16 exclusively used for the following:

- 17 a) Pili tree planting and cultivation; and
- 18 b) Skills training and capital development for the Pili industry.

19 Sec. 6. *Pili Capital of the Philippines.* – The province of Sorsogon is hereby

20 declared, or granted the official designation as the Pili Capital of the Philippines.

21 Sec. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DA and DENR in

22 collaboration with DTI, DOST and the Sorsogon State University, shall issue and

23 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this

24 Act.

25 Sec. 8. *Appropriations.* – For the effective implementation of this Act, the

26 amount of Two Hundred Fifty Million Pesos (PhP 50,000,000.00) is hereby

27 appropriated from the current and annual budgetary allocations of the DA and DENR.

28 Fifty percent (50%) of which shall serve as the initial amount for the Pili Subsidy Fund

29 under Section 5 of this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its

30 continued implementation shall be included in the annual budget of DA and DENR

31 under the General Appropriations Act.

32 Sec. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws and parts thereof inconsistent with any

1 provisions of the Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

2 Sec. 10. *Effectively Clause* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
3 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
4 circulation.

Approved,