

Production is highest in the Davao region, representing 82% of total production.¹

International prices for cacao beans have been steadily rising. A boost in exports would generate dollar earnings for local exporters. Moreover, growth in the cacao industry would increase livelihood and jobs for Filipinos.

The legislation envisions the creation of a center that will have general powers and functions in line with the research and development of the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (OA-BAR), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). The Center will be in the forefront of educating and training all stakeholders in the cacao industry; conducting relevant researches, scientific study and feasible marketing strategies; extending technologies; and creating linkages with international organizations and other cacao development centers in other countries,

In view of this, early passage of this bill is sought.


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

¹ <https://www.vancouverpcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/7-The-Philippine-Cacao-Industry-Rev3.pdf>

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SENATE

S. No. 1387

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

1 **AN ACT**
2 **CREATING A CACAO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER,**
3 **AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR**
4 **OTHER PURPOSES**

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

5 Section 1. *Establishment of a Cacao Research and Development Center.* — The
6 Cacao Research and Development Center is hereby established.

7 Sec. 2. *General Powers and Functions.* - The Center shall have the following
8 general powers and functions in line with the research and development programs of
9 the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Agricultural, Research (DA-BAR),
10 Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Trade and Industry
11 (DTI), and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA):

- 12 a. Educate and train ail stakeholders of the cacao industry;
13 b. Conduct relevant research, scientific study, and feasible marketing
14 strategies;
15 c. Extend technologies; and
16 d. Establish linkages with international organizations and other cacao
17 development centers in other countries.

18 Sec. 3. *Specific Powers and Functions.* - The Center shall have the following
19 specific powers and functions:

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a. Develop productive, high yielding, good quality varieties of cacao;

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b. Develop efficient, economic and productive cacao production technologies;

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c. Develop effective and sound cacao processing technologies for varieties "Forastero", "Criollo" and other outstanding varieties of cacao;

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d. Develop effective production systems for all cacao varieties;

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e. Establish and maintain germ plasm collection and gene bank for cacao;

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f. Develop effective and efficient marketing systems for cacao;

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g. Evolve productive cacao-based farming systems;

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h. Develop and implement appropriate and suitable technology packages and effective technology transfer schemes, especially the conduct of training programs;

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i. Upgrade the skills of development facilitators, extensionists and farmers through trainings, seminars, and workshops on cacao production and postharvest handling and processing;

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j. Establish national and international linkages for cacao research, development, extension and production activities; and

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k. Coordinate with other government/non-government agencies involved in the development of the cacao industry.

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Sec. 4. Qualifications of the Executive Director. — The Center shall be headed by an Executive Director who shall be responsible for the planning, implementation, and supervision of the Center's program of activities. The Executive Director shall possess the following qualifications:

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a. Must be at least forty (40) years old;

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b. Must have completed substantial and relevant education and must have experience in cacao research and development; and

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c. Must be of good moral character and must not have been involved in a legal case involving moral turpitude.

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1 All other officers and employees of the Center shall be appointed by the
2 Executive Director consistent with the provisions of the Civil Service laws, rules and
3 regulations.

4 Sec. 5. *Advisory Board.* — The plans and programs of the Center shall be
5 reviewed annually by the Advisory Board composed of:

- 6 a. The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture as Chairman;
- 7 b. The Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry, as Vice
8 Chairman;
- 9 c. One (1) representative from a non-governmental organization (NGO)
10 working on cacao production, research and development and
11 processing;
- 12 d. One (1) representative from the group of cacao traders;
- 13 e. One (1) representative from the group of cacao processors; and
- 14 f. One (1) representative from the group of cacao growers.

15 Sec. 6. *Quorum.* — The presence of at least four (4) members at the time of
16 the meeting shall constitute the quorum: Provided, however, that in the absence of
17 the Chairman, the Vice Chairman shall preside.

18 Sec. 7. *Appropriation.* - The amount of Fifty Million Pesos (Php50,000,000,00)
19 is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the Special Activities Fund of the
20 President of the Republic of the Philippines, or from any other sources that may be
21 identified for the purpose. Thereafter, such sum required for its operation,
22 maintenance, research, and development shall be included in the annual General
23 Appropriations Act.

24 Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
25 rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of
26 this Act are hereby repealed, superseded or modified accordingly: Provided, however,
27 That nothing in this Act shall amend, modify or repeal the provisions of Republic Act
28 No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code.

1 *Sec. 9. Separability Clause.* — If any part or provision of this Act shall be held
2 unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected shall
3 continue to be in full force and effect.

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

7 *Approved,*