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SENATE

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S. NO. 342

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

EXPLANATORY NOTE

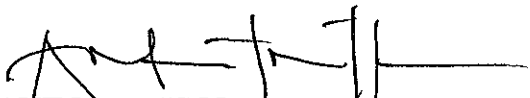
The Philippines is among the top producers of pineapple fruit in the world. Data from the Bureau of Postharvest Research and Extension (BPRE) confirms that the 1999 total world production was 13,146,989 metric tons, of which the Philippines was the third largest contributor (11%). For the ASEAN group, the Philippines accounted for 34 % (1,495,120 Mt) of total production, second only to Thailand.

From 1995 to 1999, the total average production was 1,522,660 Mt from an average total area of 41,890 hectares. Bukidnon and South Cotabato account for at least 90% of the country's total pineapple production due to the existence of Dole and Del Monte plantations. Cavite and Camarines Sur are noteworthy producers in areas where no contract-growing is present. Camarines Sur contributes at least 34% while Cavite contributes 30% to aggregate production. "Formosa" variety is mostly grown in Camarines Sur, while "Hawaiian" variety is planted in Cavite.

Pineapple market is worldwide and highly competitive. Pineapple is the third most important tropical fruit next to banana and mango. However, in many countries, resources for pineapple research have notably declined in these most recent years possibly due to poorer earnings. Moreover, there is a gap between public research and private needs for pineapple development.

The legislation envisions the creation of a National Research, Development and Extension Center for Pineapple to bridge this gap, inasfar as the Philippine pineapple industry is concerned. This center is tasked to undertake comprehensive research on the advancement of pineapple cultivation and postharvest handling. Its powers and functions shall be in line with the research, development and extension programs of concerned government agencies which include the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and Central Mindanao University.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

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AN ACT
TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION
CENTER FOR PINEAPPLE, AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SEC. 1. National Research, Development and Extension Center for Pineapple. -**

2 The National Research, Development and Extension Center for Pineapple (hereinafter referred to
3 as NRDECP), which shall be based in the Central Mindanao University in Musuan, Bukidnon, is
4 hereby established.

5
6 **SEC. 2. General Powers and Functions of the Center. -** The Center shall have the

7 following general powers and functions in line with the research, development and extension
8 programs of the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR),
9 Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI),
10 National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and Central Mindanao University:

- 11 a) to educate and train all stakeholders of the pineapple industry;
- 12 b) to undertake basic and strategic research for developing technologies to enhance
13 productivity and utilization of pineapple;
- 14 c) to explore various approaches such as, but not limited to hybridization, utilization of
15 clonal variability and induced mutation in suckers, in vitro culture and hybrid seeds,
16 in developing new varieties in pineapple;
- 17 d) to provide leadership and coordinate the network research for generating location
18 specific varieties, technology and for solving specific constraints of pineapple
19 production;
- 20 e) to standardize the management practices and to provide farm advisory services in all
21 aspects of pineapple production; and

1 f) to collaborate with relevant national and international agencies in achieving the above
2 objectives.

3 **SEC. 3. *Specific Powers and Functions of the Center.*** - The Center shall have the
4 specific powers and functions:

- 5 a) to develop productive, high yielding, good quality varieties of pineapple;
6 b) to develop efficient, economic and productive pineapple production technologies;
7 c) to develop effective and sound pineapple processing technologies for outstanding
8 varieties of pineapple;
9 d) to develop effective production systems for all pineapple varieties;
10 e) to establish and maintain germplasm collection and gene bank for pineapple;
11 f) to develop effective and efficient marketing systems for pineapple;
12 g) to evolve productive pineapple-based farming systems;
13 h) to develop and implement appropriate and suitable technology packages and effective
14 technology transfer schemes, especially the conduct of training programs;
15 i) to upgrade the skills of development facilitators, estensionists and farmers through
16 trainings, seminars and workshop on pineapple production and postharvest handling
17 and processing;
18 j) to establish national and international linkages for pineapple research, development,
19 extension and production activities; and
20 k) to coordinate with other government\non-government agencies involved in the
21 development of pineapple industry.
22

23 **SEC. 4. *Executive Director of the Center.*** - The Center shall be headed by an Executive
24 Director who shall be responsible for the planning, implementation, and supervision of the
25 Center's program of activities. The Executive Director:

- 26 a) must have completed substantial and relevant education and experience on pineapple
27 research and development; and
28 b) must be of good moral character and has not been involved in a legal case involving
29 moral turpitude.

30 All other officers and employees of the Center shall be appointed by the Executive
31 Director consistent with the provisions of the Civil Service laws, rules and regulations.
32

33 **SEC. 5. *Advisory Board.*** - The plans and programs of the Center shall be reviewed
34 annually by the Advisory Board which shall be composed of

- 35 a) the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture as Chairman;
36 b) the University President of the Central Mindanao University as Vice Chairman;
37 c) the Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry as member;

- 1 d) one (1) representative from a non-governmental organization (NGO) working on
2 pineapple production, research and development and processing;
3 e) one (1) representative from the group of pineapple traders;
4 f) one (1) representative from the group of pineapple processors; and
5 g) one (1) representative from the group of pineapple growers.
6

7 **SEC. 6. Quorum.** - The presence of at least five (5) members at the time of the meeting
8 shall constitute the quorum: Provided, however, That the Chairman, in his absence, the Vice
9 Chairman shall preside.
10

11 **SEC. 7. Authorization and Exemption.** - The Center is hereby authorized to plan,
12 construct, develop, improve, acquire, or lease buildings, farms, fields and other facilities, to
13 purchase machineries, equipment, materials and supplies locally or abroad as may be necessary
14 to carry out its functions and objectives. Moreover, the Center shall enjoy exemption from taxes
15 and other duties in the importation of such machineries, development and extension programs,
16 subject to the provisions of Section 105(s) of the Tariff and Customs Code, Section 103(f) of the
17 National Internal Revenue Code and to the provisions on Automatic Appropriations under the
18 General Appropriations Act.
19

20 **SEC. 8. Location of the Center.** - The main offices, experimental area and nursery of the
21 Center shall be located at the Central Mindanao University in Musuan, Bukidnon. The Center
22 may hereafter establish similar facilities in its other service areas in order to promote the
23 development of the pineapple industry in the country.
24

25 **SEC. 9. Appropriations.** - To carry out the provisions of this Act, the amount of two
26 million pesos (Php 2,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated from the funds of the National Treasury.
27 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary to maintain the operations of the Board shall be
28 included in the General Appropriations Act.
29

30 **SEC. 10. Revolving Funds.** - Any and all savings and income of the Center shall
31 constitute a revolving fund which shall not be reverted to the General Fund and which shall be
32 used by the Center in the furtherance of its goals and objectives.
33

34 **SEC. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Advisory Board shall jointly
35 promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

1 **SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations
2 inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed
3 accordingly.

4

5 **SEC. 13. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
6 complete publication in the National Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
7 circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,