

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

13 JUL -2 A9:48

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

S.B. No. 300

Introduced by SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks the creation of the Philippine Bamboo and Rattan Center (PBRC).

The creation of this Center will boost the efforts towards the development of the bamboo and rattan industry which is expected to eventually contribute to the growth of the Philippine economy for its high potentials of generating additional revenues for our farmers and processors. Said Center aims, among others: to promote bamboo and rattan as sources of food, furniture, light construction materials and other industrial products; to enable the farmers to avail themselves of high quality bamboo and rattan planting stocks at all times and at reasonable prices; to undertake training programs for farmers on the proper establishment procedure of bamboo and rattan plantations and its efficient processing thereafter; to encourage small farm owners to engage in bamboo and rattan plantation development and processing business; to undertake research activities in all disciplines that lead to the improvement of the over-all productivity of the bamboo and rattan. In sum, the Philippine Bamboo and Rattan Center (PBRC) shall prioritize to increase the productivity and efficiency of the bamboo and rattan plantations through employing the socio-economic researches that ensure economic viability and the development of appropriate technologies that are cost-effective, simple and practical for the industry. With this bill, the implementation of a bamboo and rattan distribution and propagation program to primarily benefit the smallholder farmers will be facilitated while the farmer-participants will be encouraged to establish strong farmer's associations or cooperatives to serve as focal point for government assistance in this industry.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly requested.

Cynthia A. Villar
CYNTHIA A. VILLAR



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

'13 JUL -2 A9 :48

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

S.B. No. 300

Introduced by SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

1 **AN ACT**
2 **PROPOSING THE CREATION OF THE PHILIPPINE BAMBOO AND RATTAN**
3 **CENTER (PBRC) TO CONSERVE, PROPAGATE AND PROMOTE BAMBOO AND**
4 **RATTAN SPECIES**
5

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

8 SECTION 1. *Title.* - This bill shall be known as the "Bamboo and Rattan Bill of
9 2013".

10 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The Constitution provides that the State shall
11 develop a self-reliant and independent national economy effectively controlled by
12 Filipinos. It also provides that the state shall support indigenous, appropriate, and self-
13 reliant scientific and technological capabilities, and their application to the country's
14 productive systems and national life. Towards this end, the State shall establish various
15 programs to conserve, propagate and promote bamboo and rattan as sources of food,
16 furniture and light construction materials.

17 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Bill, the following terms shall mean:

18 a) "Bamboo and Rattan Center" refers to the Philippine National Bamboo and
19 Rattan Center at the Pampanga Agricultural College in Magalang, Pampanga, the other
20 bamboo and rattan centers in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, and those that will be
21 created pursuant to the enactment of this Bill;

22 b) "Rattan" refers to all members of the climbing palm belonging to Subfamily
23 Calamoideae of the Family Palmae or Arecaceae

24 c) "Bamboo" refers to all members of the tall or shrubby grasses with woody
25 culms under the Subfamily Bambusoideae of the Family Graminae or Poaceae.

26 d) "Smallholder farmer" refers to a farmer owning or cultivating a farmland of less
27 than or equal to five (5) hectares;

1 e) "Semi-Commercial Production" refers to a farmer owning or cultivating a
2 farmland of more than five (5) hectares.

3 SEC. 4. *Creation of the Philippine Bamboo and Rattan Center.* – There is hereby
4 created a Philippine Bamboo and Rattan Center, hereinafter referred to as the PBRC
5 which shall be under the supervision and control of the Department of Agriculture.

6 SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions of the PBRC.* - The PBRC shall have the
7 following powers and functions:

8 a) Conserve, propagate and promote bamboo and rattan as sources of food,
9 furniture and light construction materials and other industrial products;

10 b) Enable the farmers, particularly smallholder farmers and CARP
11 beneficiaries to avail themselves of high quality bamboo and rattan planting stocks at all
12 times and at reasonable prices through an organized program of propagation, breeding,
13 training and distribution;

14 c) Undertake training programs for farmers, particularly smallholder farmers
15 and CARP beneficiaries, designed to transfer technology on the proper establishment
16 procedure of bamboo and rattan plantations and efficient processing of bamboo and
17 rattan products;

18 d) Encourage small farm owners to engage in bamboo and rattan plantation
19 development and processing business to improve their living conditions;

20 e) Undertake research activities in all disciplines that lead to the
21 improvement of the over-all productivity of the bamboo and rattan;

22 f) Increase the existing plantation of bamboo and rattan to keep pace with
23 human population growth; and

24 g) Enter into memoranda of agreement and receive donations through the
25 Department of Agriculture from local and foreign sources. Upon the recommendation of
26 the PBRC Advisory Board, the individual bamboo and rattan centers may enter into
27 agreements directly with funding agencies through their respective board of regents or
28 head of agency.

29 SEC. 6. *Priorities.* - The PBRC shall give priority to the following activities:

30 a) Expand bamboo and rattan plantations and improve the per unit area
31 productivity;

32 b) Development of bamboo and rattan plantation establishment procedure for
33 backyard and semi-commercial production, improving planting materials production
34 efficiency, Physiology and schemes to reduce losses caused by pests and diseases;

35 c) Propagation, breeding, site species matching and plant nutrition;

36 d) Socio-economic researches to ensure economic viability and acceptance
37 of technology by farmers; and

1 e) Development of appropriate technologies that are cost-effective, simple
2 and practical. At least five (5) hectares bamboo setum and five (5) hectares rattan gene
3 bank shall be established by each bamboo and rattan center to ensure the preservation
4 of the existing bamboo and rattan genetic materials in the Philippines and provide
5 option to the farmers.

6 SEC. 7. *PBRC Advisory Board.* - The PBRC Advisory Board shall be composed
7 of the following:

8 a) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture or his representative, as Chairman;

9 b) Undersecretary for Regional Operations, Department of Agriculture, as Vice
10 Chairman;

11 c) Executive Director, Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural
12 Resources, Research and Development (PCARRD);

13 d) Director, Bureau of Agricultural Research, Department of Agriculture

14 e) President of the Pampanga Agricultural College (PAC) in Magalang,
15 Pampanga; Chancellor of the UP.Los Baños (UPLB) in Laguna; and Presidents of
16 Tarlac College of Agriculture (TCA) in Camiling Tarlac; Ramon Magsaysay
17 Technological University (RMTU) in San Marcelino, Zambales; Mariano Marcos State
18 University (MMSU) in Batac, Ilocos Norte; Leyte State University (LSU) in Baybay,
19 Leyte; West Visayas State University (WVSU) in Iloilo; Central Mindanao University
20 (CMU) in Bukidnon; Sultan Kudarat Polytechnic State College (SKPSC) in Tacurong,
21 Sultan Kudarat; and Western Philippine University (WPU) in Aborlan Palawan; and the
22 president of the state college or university where a rattan and bamboo center may be
23 established pursuant to this Act;

24 f) Director of the Bureau of Plant Industry;

25 g) Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau;

26 h) Executive Director of PBRC; and

27 i) Farmers' representative to be appointed by the Board.

28 SEC. 8. *Functions of the PBRC Advisory Board.* - The PBRC Advisory Board
29 shall perform the following functions:

30 a) Formulate policies, programs and projects for the development of the bamboo
31 and rattan industry;

32 b) Review and recommend the annual budget of the PBRC;

33 c) Evaluate the implementation, efficiency and effectiveness of the programs and
34 projects of the PBRC; and

35 d) Recommend the establishment or abolition of bamboo and rattan centers as
36 may be deemed necessary.

1 SEC. 9. *Executive Director of PBRC.* - The Executive Director of the PBRC shall
2 be appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. The Executive Director
3 of the PBRC shall perform the following functions:

4 a) Oversee the implementation of the policies, programs and projects of the
5 PBRC;

6 b) Assist the PBRC Advisory Board in the review, evaluation and monitoring
7 of the Bamboo and Rattan Program; and

8 c) Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the PBRC Advisory
9 Board.

10 SEC. 10. *Appointment of Directors or Center Chiefs of Other Bamboo and*
11 *Rattan Centers.* - The Directors or Center Chiefs of other bamboo and rattan centers
12 shall be appointed by the respective board of regents or head of agency.

13 SEC. 11. *Functions of the Directors or Center Chiefs of Other Bamboo and*
14 *Rattan Centers.* - Subject to the policies of the PBRC, the Directors or Center Chiefs of
15 other bamboo and rattan centers shall perform the following functions:

16 a) Administer the policies, programs and projects of the PBRC in their
17 respective centers & areas of responsibility;

18 b) Recommend the creation of divisions and sections including the staffing
19 pattern of the centers;

20 c) Prepare the annual budget of their centers;

21 d) Approve the expenditures of their respective budgets;

22 e) Recommend to their respective heads of agency the appointment of
23 personnel or consultants;

24 f) Recommend policies, programs and projects to the Executive Director of
25 the PBRC; and

26 g) Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Executive
27 Director of the PBRC.

28 SEC. 12. *Implementation and Coordination of the Program.* - The PBRC Advisory
29 Board through the Executive Director shall coordinate, monitor and evaluate the
30 implementation of the bamboo and rattan programs. It shall identify, through the
31 Directors of bamboo and rattan centers and Center Chiefs from the various
32 implementing stations, the programs and projects in the areas of propagation, breeding,
33 distribution, soil requirement, plant nutrition, and processing of bamboo and rattan raw
34 material. It shall formulate strategies relative to the propagation and distribution of the
35 bamboo and rattan. Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao shall initially have a total of ten (10)
36 bamboo and rattan centers. The centers in Luzon shall be located at Pampanga
37 Agricultural College (PAC) in Magalang, Pampanga; UP.Los Baños (UPLB) in Laguna;
38 Tarlac College of Agriculture (TCA) in Camiling, Tarlac; Ramon Magsaysay

1 Technological University (RMTU) in San Marcelino, Zambales; Mariano Marcos State
2 University (MMSU) in Ilocos Norte. The centers in Visayas shall be at Leyte State
3 University (LSU) in Baybay, Leyte; and West Visayas State University (WVSU) in Iloilo.
4 The centers in Mindanao shall be at Central Mindanao University (CMU) in Bukidnon;
5 Sultan Kudarat Polytechnic State College (SKPSC) in Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat; and
6 Western Philippine State University (WPSU) in Aborlan Palawan. These centers shall
7 specialize in the development of technology on propagation, breeding, plant nutrition,
8 site species matching, and processing of bamboo and rattan raw materials.

9 SEC. 13. *Farmer's Participation.* - The farmer-participants shall be encouraged to
10 establish strong farmers' associations or cooperatives to serve as focal point for
11 government assistance in the propagation and distribution of bamboo and rattan and
12 the dissemination of technology on bamboo and rattan.

13 SEC. 14. *Beneficiaries.* - The beneficiaries of the CARP and other smallholder
14 farmers shall be given priority in the bamboo and rattan distribution program.

15 SEC. 15. *Participation of the Department of Agriculture and Local Government*
16 *Units.* - The bamboo and rattan centers, the regional and provincial offices of the
17 Department of Agriculture, specifically the Bureau of Plant Industry, and the local
18 government units shall implement a bamboo and rattan distribution and propagation
19 program within their respective areas in accordance with the national policy and
20 program of the PBRC. The PBRC shall adopt a national dispersal program to primarily
21 benefit the smallholder farmers and CARP beneficiaries. Any income from the sale of
22 bamboo and rattan shall be placed in a revolving fund to be used in the propagation and
23 distribution of bamboo and rattan.

24 SEC. 16. *Use of Funds.* - Not more than fifty percent (50%) of funds allocated
25 under this Act and in subsequent annual appropriations shall be used for personal
26 services, and maintenance and operating expenses, ten percent (10%) for research and
27 development, forty percent (40%) for bamboo and rattan dispersal and distribution. All
28 income generated by the PBRC as well as donations shall be used to augment the
29 budget of the center with an annual expenditure program to be recommended and
30 approved by the Board. The Office of the President through PAGCOR shall also
31 allocate 50M yearly for Bamboo and Rattan Processing and entrepreneurship
32 assistance to farmers/growers; bamboo processors and for research/development and
33 extension activities.

34

35 SEC. 17. *Annual Report.* - The PBRC shall submit an annual report to the Office
36 of the President, the Senate, and the House of Representatives indicating among others
37 hectareage of established bamboo and rattan plantations, the number of bamboo and
38 rattan distributed and the names of the beneficiaries.

39 SEC. 18. *Transfer of Bamboo and Rattan Programs to the PBRC.* - Upon
40 approval of this Bill, the existing Bamboo and Rattan programs and projects
41 implemented by various agencies shall be transferred to the PBRC.

1 SEC. 19. *Appropriation.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of
2 this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its
3 enactment into law and thereafter.

4 SEC. 20. *Separability Clause.* - If any part, section, or provision of this Act shall
5 be held invalid or unconstitutional, the rest of the provisions shall not be affected
6 thereby.

7 SEC. 21. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations, or
8 part thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified
9 accordingly: Provided; however, That nothing in this Act shall amend, modify or repeal
10 the provisions of Republic Act No. 160, otherwise known as the Local Government
11 Code.

12 SEC. 22. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of
13 its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
14 circulation.

15 Approved,