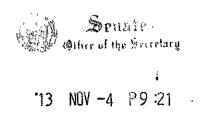
SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session



RECEIVED BY: ...

SENATE

)

)

s. No. 1895

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The coconut industry is a dominant stakeholder in Philippine agriculture, coconut being among the country's top ten export produce. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Philippines is the world's largest producer of coconuts. Three million, five hundred sixty thousand (3,560,000) hectares of arable land is devoted to coconut production benefiting roughly 25,000,000 Filipinos. It is considered to be among the top 5 net foreign exchange earners, averaging an income of roughly US\$1.5B per year.

One of the recent products that can be manufactured from the coconut tree is "coco sugar". Coconut sugar is a by-product of coconut sap (tuba) and is obtained by boiling freshly harvested sap until it evaporates and thickens. It is then allowed to cool to become granular. Chemical analysis shows that coco sugar contains higher amounts of nutrients compared to brown and refined cane sugar. Coco sugar has higher levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, chlorine, magnesium, sulfur, and micronutrients.

Health experts indicate that coco sugar can help in the proper management and control of diabetes mellitus because it helps in lowering the total cholesterol level. Coconut sugar is good for people with diabetes since it has a low glycemic index (GI) – coco sugar only has a GI of 35 compared to cane sugar's GI of 50.

This proposed measure seeks to further boost the coconut industry in the country by providing the mechanisms to fund the research and development (R&D) of coco sugar to ensure this product's conformity with internationally accepted standards for food and safety. It is hoped that this measure will help improve the lives of Filipino families who are directly and indirectly dependent on the coconut industry.

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

ITO" M. LAPID Senator MLK

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session



13 NOV -4 P9:21

1

SENATE

s. No. <u>189</u>5

)

}

)

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid,

AN ACT

PROVIDING THE ENABLING MECHANISMS FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R&D) OF COCONUT SUGAR IN THE COUNTRY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Coconut Sugar
Research and Development (R&D) Act of 2013".

3

4 **SEC. 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to 5 promote domestic materials and locally produced goods, and to adopt measures to 6 make such locally produced goods competitive in both the local and international 7 market.

8 Towards this end, the State shall provide the enabling mechanisms to promote 9 the production of coconut sugar in order to help and boost the coconut industry in the 10 country.

11

12 **SEC. 3.** *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the terms "coconut 13 sugar" and "coco sugar" shall refer to the product derived from coconut sap and 14 obtained by boiling the same until it evaporates, thickens, and thereafter solidifies 15 turning into honey syrup or granular sugar.

16

17 SEC. 4. Promoting Research and Development (R&D) on Coconut Sugar. – 18 The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), in coordination with the Philippine 19 Coconut Authority (PCA), Department of Agriculture (DA), and the Food and Nutrition 20 Research Institute (FNRI), shall conduct an extensive research and development (R&D) 21 study on the health benefits and nutritional value of coconut sugar in order to develop the same and ensure its compliance with internationally accepted standards on foodand safety.

The DOST shall facilitate and support interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and international research activities to advance knowledge on and understanding of the health and nutritional benefits of using coconut sugar, and to disseminate this information to stakeholders involved in the production and promotion of coconut sugar.

7 The DOST, in coordination with the PCA, DA, and the FNRI, shall conduct a 8 year-round information, education and communication (IEC) campaign to inform and 9 educate the general public on the various health benefits of utilizing coco sugar. It shall 10 also publish the latest research findings, studies and materials on the nutritional value of 11 coco sugar;

12

13 SEC. 5. Coconut Sugar Credit Facility and Loan Package. – The Land Bank 14 of the Philippines (LBP) is hereby mandated to formulate a Coconut Sugar Credit 15 Facility and Loan Package Window which shall extend low interest loans to small and 16 medium enterprises (SMEs) seeking to venture into the business of promoting the 17 consumption and utilization of coconut sugar.

18 Within six (6) months from the date of effectivity of this Act, the LBP is mandated 19 to formulate the necessary guidelines, procedures, and requirements for the various 20 stakeholders to avail of the Coconut Sugar Credit Facility and Loan Package, as 21 provided under this Section.

22

23 **SEC. 6.** *Annual Appropriation.* - The Department of Science and 24 Technology (DOST) shall include in its annual programming and annual appropriation 25 the amount necessary to fully implement the objectives of this Act.

26

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and .Regulations (IRR). - Within six (6) months from the date of effectivity of this Act, the DOST, in coordination with the PCA, DA, and the FNRI, shall promulgate such implementing rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

31

32 SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and 33 regulations, or parts thereof not consistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby 34 repealed or modified accordingly.

35

36 **SEC. 9.** Separability Clause. - If any provision or part of this Act shall be 37 held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions of this Act not otherwise affected . 38 thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

2

s

2 SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from 3 the date of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

;

ļ

í

3

Approved,

1