



16 JUL 19 P2:41

SENATE

S. No. 538

BY:

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Banana and plantains are grown in every humid tropical region. Being the fourth (4th) largest food crop, this fruit constitutes a vital role for the household food security and is the mainstay in the crop production of one hundred thirty (130) developing economies particularly for small and marginalized farmers worldwide.

In the country, banana is an important dollar-earning export crop. The Philippines has the biggest hectarage of banana plantations (about 339,196 hectares) in the Asian region, 80% of which are owned by small farmers. In terms of trade, the country is the fifth largest exporter of banana with 1.1 million metric tons total export yearly. It is the only Asian country among the world's top 10 banana suppliers and dominates the Japanese market.<sup>1</sup> The Philippines contributed almost 10% of the world supply in years 1996-2005. Two-thirds of the bananas exported are grown in Mindanao Island. The country is also the main world exporter of banana chips and the demand is increasing. Chips are exported to 30 countries with US and EU being the major importers.<sup>2</sup>

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

**ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES**  
*Senator*

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<sup>1</sup> BAR, UNDP link up to preserve Philippine endemic crops, Information retrieved from <http://www.bar.gov.ph/chronicle-home/archives-list/383-march-2005-issue/2741-bar-undp-link-up-to-preserve-philippine-endemic-crops> on 6/25/2013.

<sup>2</sup> Banana: Postharvest Situationer. Information retrieved from <http://www.philmech.gov.ph/phindustry/banana/htm> on 6/25/2013.

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

1       **SECTION 1.** The National Research Center for Banana (hereinafter referred to as  
2 NRDECB) which shall be based in the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) in  
3 Davao City, is hereby established.  
4

5       **SEC. 2.** The Center shall have the following general powers and functions in line with  
6 the research, development and extension programs of the Department of Agriculture - Bureau  
7 of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR), Department of Science and technology (DOST),  
8 Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Economic and Development Authority  
9 (NEDA) and USEP:  
10

- 11       A) To educate and train all stakeholders of the banana industry;
- 12
- 13       B) To undertake basic and strategic research for developing technologies to enhance  
14       productivity and utilization of banana;
- 15
- 16       C) To develop improved cultivars through traditional and biotechnological methods  
17       and conserve the diversity;
- 18
- 19       D) To serve as national repository of germplasm and information related to banana  
20       and plantain and also disseminate the knowledge for production and productivity;
- 21
- 22       E) To provide leadership and coordinate the network research for generating location  
23       specific varieties, technology and for solving specific constraints of banana and  
24       plantain production; and
- 25
- 26       F) To collaborate with relevant national and international agencies in achieving the  
27       above objectives.  
28

29       **SEC. 3.** The Center shall have the specific powers and functions:  
30

- 31       A) Develop productive, high yielding, good quality varieties of banana;

- 1  
2 B) Develop efficient, economic and productive banana production technologies;  
3  
4 C) Develop effective and sound banana processing technologies for outstanding  
5 varieties of banana;  
6  
7 D) Develop effective production systems for all banana varieties;  
8  
9 E) Establish and maintain germplasm collection and gene bank for banana;  
10  
11 F) Develop effective and efficient marketing systems for banana;  
12  
13 G) Evolve productive banana-based farming systems;  
14  
15 H) Develop and implement appropriate and suitable technology packages and  
16 effective technology transfer schemes, especially the conduct of training  
17 programs;  
18  
19 I) Upgrade the skills of development facilitators, extensionists and farmers through  
20 trainings, seminars and workshop on banana production and postharvest handling  
21 and processing;  
22  
23 J) Establish national and international linkages for banana research, development,  
24 extension and production activities; and  
25  
26 K) Coordinate with other government/non-government agencies involved in the  
27 development of banana industry.  
28

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

- 32  
33 A) Must have completed substantial and relevant education and experience on banana  
34 research and development; and  
35  
36 B) Must be of good moral character and has not been involved in a legal case  
37 involving moral turpitude.  
38

39 All other officers and employees of the Center shall be appointed by the Executive  
40 Director consistent with the provisions of the Civil Service laws, rules and regulations.  
41

42 **SEC. 5.** The plans and programs of the Center shall be reviewed annually by the  
43 Advisory Board which shall be composed of:

- 44  
45 A) The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture as Chairman;  
46  
47 B) The University President of the University of Southeastern Philippines as Vice  
48 Chairman;  
49  
50 C) The Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry as member;

1 D) One (1) representative from a nongovernmental organization (NGO) working on  
2 banana production, research and development and processing;

3  
4 E) One (1) representative from the group of banana traders;

5  
6 F) One (1) representative from the group of banana processors; and

7  
8 G) One (1) representative from the group of banana growers.  
9

10 **SEC. 6.** The presence of at least five (5) members at the time of the meeting shall  
11 constitute the quorum: Provided, however, That the Chairman, in his absence, the Vice  
12 Chairman shall preside.  
13

14 **SEC. 7.** The Center is hereby authorized to plan, construct, develop, improve,  
15 acquire, or lease buildings, farms, fields and other facilities, to purchase machineries,  
16 equipment, materials and supplies locally or abroad as may be necessary to carry out its  
17 functions and objectives. Moreover, the Center shall enjoy exemption from taxes and other  
18 duties in the importation of such machineries, development and extension programs, subject  
19 to the provisions of Section 105(s) of the Tariff and Customs Code, Section 103(t) of the  
20 National Internal Revenue Code and to the provisions on Automatic Appropriations under the  
21 General Appropriations Act.  
22

23 **SEC. 8.** The main offices, experimental area and nursery of the Center shall be  
24 located at the University of Southeastern Philippines in Davao City. The Center may  
25 hereafter establish similar facilities in its other service areas in order to promote the  
26 development of the banana industry in the country.  
27

28 **SEC 9.** To carry out the provisions of this Act, the amount of Two million pesos  
29 (P2,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated from the funds of the National Treasury. Thereafter,  
30 such sums as may be necessary to maintain the operations of the Board shall be included in  
31 the General Appropriations Act.  
32

33 **SEC. 10.** Any and all savings and income of the Center shall constitute a revolving  
34 fund which shall not be reverted to the General Fund and which shall be used by the Center in  
35 the furtherance of its goals and objectives.  
36

37 **SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Advisory Board shall jointly  
38 promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.  
39

40 **SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations  
41 inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed  
42 accordingly.  
43

44 **SEC. 13. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its  
45 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
46 circulation.

*Approved,*