



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

S. No. 571

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT
PROPOSING THE CREATION OF THE PHILIPPINE BAMBOO AND RATTAN
CENTER (PBRC) TO CONSERVE, PROPAGATE AND PROMOTE BAMBOO AND
RATTAN SPECIES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks the creation of the Philippines 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 contribute to the growth of the Philippine economy due to its high potential 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 leading 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 socioeconomic 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 immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator



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RATTAN SPECIES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "*Bamboo and Rattan Act*
2 *of 2016*".
3

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

12 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** - As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:
13

- 14 a) "Bamboo and Rattan Center" refers to the Philippine National Bamboo and Rattan Center
15 at the Pampanga Agricultural College in Magalang, Pampanga, the other bamboo and
16 rattan centers in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, and those that will be created pursuant to
17 the enactment of this Act;
18
- 19 b) "Rattan" refers to all members of the climbing palm belonging to sub-family Calamoideae
20 of the family Palmae or Arecaceae;
21
- 22 c) "Bamboo" refers to all members of the tall or shrubby grasses with woody culms under
23 the Subfamily Bambusoideae of the Family Graminae or Poaceae;
24
- 25 d) "Smallholder Farmer" refers to a farmer owning or cultivating a farmland of less than or
26 equal to five (5) hectares;
27
- 28 e) "Semi-Commercial Production" refers to a farmer owning or cultivating a farmland of
29 more than five (5) hectares.
30

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

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

- 7 a) Conserve, propagate and promote bamboo and rattan as sources of food, furniture and
8 light construction materials and other industrial products;
- 9
- 10 b) Enable the farmers, particularly smallholder farmers and CARP beneficiaries to avail
11 themselves of high quality bamboo and rattan planting stocks at all times and at
12 reasonable prices through an organized program of propagation, breeding, training and
13 distribution;
- 14
- 15 c) Undertake training programs for farmers, particularly smallholder farmers and CARP
16 beneficiaries, designed to transfer technology on the proper processing of bamboo and
17 rattan products;
- 18
- 19 d) Encourage small farms owners to engage in bamboo and rattan plantation development
20 and processing business to improve their living conditions;
- 21
- 22 e) Undertake research activities in all disciplines that lead to the improvement of the over-all
23 productivity of the bamboo and rattan;
- 24
- 25 f) Increase the existing plantation of bamboo and rattan to keep with human population
26 growth; and
- 27
- 28 g) Enter into memoranda of agreement and receive donations through the Department of
29 Agriculture from local and foreign sources. Upon the recommendation of the PBRC
30 Advisory Board, the individual bamboo and rattan centers may enter into agreements
31 directly with funding agencies through their respective board of regents of head of
32 agency.
- 33

34 **SEC. 6. *Priorities.*** - The PBRC shall give priority to the following activities:
35

- 36 a) Expand bamboo and rattan plantations and improve them per unit area productivity;
- 37
- 38 b) Development of bamboo and rattan plantation establishment procedure for backyard and
39 semi-commercial production, improving planting materials production efficiency,
40 physiology and schemes to reduce losses caused by pests and diseases;
- 41
- 42 c) Propagation, breeding, site species matching and plant nutrition;
- 43
- 44 d) Socio-economic researches to ensure economic viability and acceptance of technology
45 by farmers; and
- 46
- 47 e) Development of appropriate technologies that are cost-effective, simple and practical. At
48 least five (5) hectares bamboo setum and five (5) hectares rattan gene bank shall be

1 established by each bamboo and rattan center to ensure the preservation of the existing
2 bamboo and rattan genetic materials in the Philippines and provide option to the farmers.
3

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

- 7 a) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture or his representative, as Chairman;
- 8
- 9 b) Undersecretary for Regional Operations, Department of Agriculture, as Vice Chairman;
- 10
- 11 c) Executive Director, Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources,
12 Research and Development (PCARRD);
- 13
- 14 d) Director, Bureau of Agricultural Research, Department of Agriculture;
- 15
- 16 e) President of the Pampanga Agricultural College (PAC) in Magalang, Pampanga;
17 Chancellor of the UP Los Banos (UPLB) in Laguna; and the Presidents of Tarlac College
18 of Agriculture (TCA) in Camiling; Tarlac; Ramon Magsaysay Technological University
19 (RMTU) in San Marcelino, Zambales; Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) in
20 Batac, Ilocos norte; Leyte State University (LSU) in Baybay, Leyte; West Visayas State
21 University (WVSU) in Iloilo; Central Mindanao University (CMSU) in Bukidnon; Sultan
22 Kudarat Polytechnic College (SKPSC) in Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat; and Western
23 Philippine University (WPU) in Aborlan, Palawan; and the president of the state college
24 or university where a rattan and bamboo center may be established pursuant to this Act;
25
- 26 f) Director of the Bureau of Plant Industry;
- 27
- 28 g) Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau;
- 29
- 30 h) Executive Director of PBRC; and
- 31
- 32 i) Farmers' representative to be appointed by the Board.
- 33

34 **SEC. 8. *Functions of the PBRC Advisory Board.*** - The PBRC Advisory Board shall
35 perform the following functions:
36

- 37 a) Formulate policies, programs, and projects for the development of the bamboo and rattan
38 industry;
- 39
- 40 b) Review and recommend the annual budget of the PBRC;
- 41
- 42 c) Evaluate the implementation, efficiency, and effectiveness of the programs and projects
43 of the PBRC; and
- 44
- 45 d) Recommend the establishment or abolition of bamboo and rattan centers as may be
46 deemed necessary.
- 47

48 **SEC. 9. *Executive Director of the PBRC.*** - The Executive Director of the PBRC
49 shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. The Executive Director
50 of the PBRC shall perform the following functions:

- 1
2 a) Oversee the implementation of the policies, programs, and projects of the PBRC;
3
4 b) Assist the PBRC Advisory Board in the review, evaluation and monitoring of the Bamboo
5 and Rattan Program; and
6
7 c) Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the PBRC Advisory Board.
8

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

13 **SEC. 11. *Functions of the Directors or Center Chief of Other Bamboo and Rattan***
14 ***Centers.*** - Subject to the policies of the PBRC, the Directors or Center Chiefs of other
15 bamboo and rattan centers shall perform the following functions:
16

- 17 a) Administer the policies, programs, and projects of the PBRC in their respective centers
18 and areas of responsibility;
19
20 b) Recommend the creation of divisions and sections including the staffing pattern of the
21 centers;
22
23 c) Prepare the annual budget of their centers;
24
25 d) Approve the expenditures of their respective budgets;
26
27 e) Recommend to their respective heads of agency the appointment of personnel or
28 consultants;
29
30 f) Recommend policies, programs, and projects to the Executive Director of the PBRC; and
31
32 g) Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Executive Director of the PBRC.
33

34 **SEC. 12. *Implementation and Coordination of the Program.*** - The PBRC Advisory
35 Board through the Executive Director shall coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the
36 implementation of the bamboo and rattan programs. It shall identify, through the Directors of
37 bamboo and rattan centers and Center Chiefs from the various implementing stations, the
38 programs and projects in the areas of propagation, breeding, distribution, soil requirement
39 plant nutrition, and processing of bamboo and rattan raw material. It shall formulate
40 strategies relative to the propagation and distribution of the bamboo and rattan, Luzon,
41 Visayas, and Mindanao shall initially have a total of ten (10) bamboo and rattan centers. The
42 centers in Luzon shall be located at Pampanga Agricultural College (PAC) in Magalang,
43 Prunpanga; UP Los Banos (UPLB) in Laguna; Tarlac College of Agriculture (TA) in
44 Camiling, Tarlac; Ramon Magsaysay Technological University (RMTU) in San Marcelino,
45 Zambales; Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) in Ilocos Norte. The centers in Visayas
46 shall be at Leyte State University (LSU) in Baybay, Leyte; and West Visayas State
47 University (WVSU) in Iloilo. The centers in Mindanao shall be at Central Mindanao
48 University (CMU) in Bukidnon; Sultan Kudarat Polytechnic State College (SKPSC) in
49 Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat; and Western Philippine State University (WPSU) in Aborlan,
50 Palawan. These centers shall specialize -in the development of technology on propagation,

1 breeding, plant nutrition, site species matching, and processing of bamboo and rattan raw
2 materials.

3
4 **SEC. 13. *Farmer's Participation.*** - The farmer-participants shall be encouraged to
5 establish strong farmers' association or cooperatives to serve as focal point for government
6 assistance in the propagation and distribution of bamboo and rattan and the dissemination of
7 technology on bamboo and rattan.

8
9 **SEC. 14. *Beneficiaries.*** - The beneficiaries of the CARP and other smallholder
10 farmers shall be given priority in the bamboo and rattan distribution program.

11
12 **SEC. 15. *Participation of the Department of Agriculture and Local Government***
13 ***Units.*** - The bamboo and rattan centers, the regional and provincial offices of the Department
14 of Agriculture, specifically the Bureau of Plant Industry, and the local government units shall
15 implement a bamboo and rattan distribution and propagation program within their respective
16 areas in accordance with the national policy and program of the PBRC. The PBRC shall
17 adopt a national dispersal program to primarily benefit the smallholder farmers and CARP
18 beneficiaries. Any income from the sale of bamboo and rattan shall be placed in a revolving
19 fund to be used in the propagation and distribution of bamboo and rattan.

20
21 **SEC. 16. *Use of Funds.*** - Not more than fifty percent (50%) of funds allocated under
22 this Act and in subsequent annual appropriations shall be used for personal services, and
23 maintenance and operating expenses, ten percent (10%) for research and development, forty
24 percent (40%) for bamboo and rattan dispersal and distribution. All income generated by the
25 PBRC, as well as donations, shall be used to augment the budget of the center with an annual
26 expenditure program to be recommended and approved by the Board. The Office of the
27 President, through PAGCOR, shall also allocate Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) yearly
28 for Bamboo and Rattan Processing and entrepreneurship assistance to famers/growers;
29 bamboo processors and for research/development and extension activities.

30
31 **SEC. 17. *Annual Report.*** - The PBRC shall submit an annual report to the Office of
32 the President, the Senate, and the House of Representatives indicating among others
33 hectarage of established bamboo and rattan plantations, the number of bamboo and rattan
34 distributed, and the names of the beneficiaries.

35
36 **SEC. 18. *Transfer of Bamboo and Rattan Programs to the PBRC.*** - Upon approval
37 of this Bill, the extending Bamboo and Rattan programs and projects implemented by various
38 agencies shall be transferred to the PBRC.

39
40 **SEC. 19. *Appropriation.*** - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this
41 Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment
42 into law thereafter.

43
44 **SEC. 20. *Separability Clause.*** - If any part, section, or provision of this Act shall be
45 held invalid or unconstitutional, the rest of the provisions shall not be affected thereby.

46
47 **SEC. 21. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts
48 thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly:
49 *Provided*, however, That nothing in this Act shall amend, modify or repeal the provision of
50 Republic Act No. 160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code.

1
2
3

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

Approved,