

08 FEB 2019

Office of the President
of the Philippines
Malacañang

FEB 08 2019

**THE HONORABLE SENATE PRESIDENT
and Members of the Senate**
Senate of the Philippines
GSIS Building, Financial Center
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We respectfully transmit herewith the Veto Message of **President Rodrigo Roa Duterte**, on consolidated enrolled **Senate Bill No. 1976 / House Bill No. 8522**, entitled:

"AN ACT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY (PCA), AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1468, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'REVISED COCONUT INDUSTRY CODE,' AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,"

pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, Section 27 (1) of the 1987 Constitution.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,


SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA
Executive Secretary

Copy furnished:

Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Speaker of the House
House of Representatives
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

Sec. Adelino B. Sitoy
Head
Presidential Legislative Liaison Office
2/F New Executive Bldg.
Malacañang, Manila



OFFICE OF SENATE PRESIDENT
VICENTE C. SOTTO III
RECEIVED BY: LYN A. SHEENA S.

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MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

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**THE HONORABLE SENATE PRESIDENT
and Members of the Senate**
Senate of the Philippines
GSIS Building, Financial Center
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to Section 27(1), Article VI of the 1987 Constitution, I am returning herewith without my signature the consolidated enrolled **Senate Bill No. 1976 / House Bill No. 8522**, entitled:

"AN ACT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY (PCA), AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1468, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'REVISED COCONUT INDUSTRY CODE,' AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,"

While I recognize that the objective of the bill is to adopt necessary measures to immediately address the serious problems besetting the coconut industry, protect the socio-economic well-being of coconut farmers, and ensure that the benefits due our coconut farmers are consolidated and their delivery expedited, the present formulation of the proposed legislative measure regrettably lacks vital safeguards to avoid the repetition of painful mistakes in the past.

The powers given to the Philippine Coconut Authority under the proposed measure, read together with the proposed "*Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Act*," undermine relevant regulations and safeguards that were established precisely to avoid abuses. I am certain that neither Congress nor the Executive can bear to see our coconut farmers being exposed to injury by the very legislation that was intended for their benefit and protection, especially if such injury could have been prevented by the institution of necessary safeguards.

While the Enrolled Bill is in the common legislative agenda of the Legislative - Executive Development Advisory Council, the provisions of the bill do not reflect our ultimate goal of accelerating the full utilization of coco levy assets and funds for the benefit of our marginalized coconut farmers and the coconut industry.

In view of these considerations, I am constrained to veto the above mentioned Enrolled Bill.

Very truly yours,

Copy furnished:

Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Speaker of the House
House of Representatives
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

Sec. Adelino B. Sitoy
Head
Presidential Legislative Liaison Office
2/F New Executive Bldg.
Malacañang, Manila



THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES



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