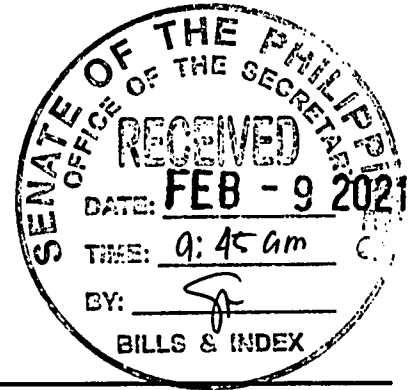


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
S. No. 2044



Introduced by **Senator Cynthia A. Villar**

AN ACT
DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOSE IN THE PROVINCE OF
BATANGAS, AS THE "EGG BASKET OF THE PHILIPPINES"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The town of San Jose is a First Class Municipality in the Province of Batangas and is known as the Egg Basket of the Philippines. The layer industry in San Jose started in the late 1940s but became a backyard industry in the 1960s. In 2012 gross income per day of egg producers in said town is at P19 million, where the average price was at P3.90 per egg, hence the annual gross sales was pegged at close to P7.5 billion. Today, the Batangas Egg Producers Association (BAEPA) cited that the whole province of Batangas has an estimated 30 million daily egg production with San Jose town as the highest with a declared layers population of 12,543,066 and more than 705 MT chicken egg production on a daily basis. The average farmgate price of chicken egg in commercial farms in January to March 2020 was quoted at PhP 5.62 per piece, an increase of 20.9 percent compared with the 2019 same period average farm gate price of PhP 4.65 per piece. The town has 342 registered independent poultry farms as of June 2020.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, the country's total chicken egg production from January to March 2020 is estimated at 150.29 thousand metric tons. Among the regions, CALABARZON was the highest producer of chicken egg during the quarter with 45.09 thousand metric tons. This was followed Central Luzon and Central Visayas with 29.79 thousand metric tons and 13.56 thousand metric tons respectively. The three regions contributed 58.8 percent to the country's total chicken egg production. (<https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/attachments/ird/specialrelease/Special-Release-Chicken-Egg-Situation-Report-January-to-March-2020-signed.pdf>)

Being a basic food item, the chicken egg is regular component of every family's home. According to "World Nutrition Forum," the growth in world egg production is following the growth of the human population. What started as primarily backyard enterprise, the egg production business in this town has now evolved into commercial scale proportion. The proximity of San Jose to Batangas City, Lipa City and to the Metro Manila areas ensures the municipality of commercial linkages. Poultry is the most sustainable major meat compared to pork and chicken. Eggs are the most sustainable source of animal protein. As a food commodity, the chicken egg has become a staple component in the table of every Filipino family.

In 2009, the people of San Jose were challenged because of the oversupply of eggs in their town that were produced by an estimate of seven million chickens. Fortunately, with the help of the Batangas Egg Producers Cooperative or BEPCO, the egg farmers of San Jose were able to develop different products from eggs such as liquid egg and frozen egg in cooperation with the coop and the University of the Philippines (UP) Dilliman and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) under the Collaborative Research and Development to Leverage Philippine Economy or CRADLE program. They now have powder or granules from low-edible shell eggs or that of low-quality for a prolonged shelf life but are safe to use. Said collaboration resulted in the development of Egg White Powder which is ideal for baking cakes and bread. It can also be used in making mayonnaise and meringue.

These addresses the needs of our egg farmers for less production losses and providing long-term solutions to problem that affect their livelihood.

The widespread adoption of modern technology in poultry equipment, advances in feed formulation, breed trait emphasis, optimal environmental and hygienic conditions and disease outbreak preventive measures are among the factors that contribute to the positive growth in sales of eggs in San Jose.

In 2016, the town tried to set a Guinness record for the longest line of fresh chicken eggs in trays where around 6,000 trays with 30 pieces of eggs per tray were set up in the 2-kilometer Macalintal Avenue, its major thoroughfare.

The Philippine Egg Board, in coordination with the Batangas Egg Producers Association in order to pursue promotional campaigns to boost egg consumption in the country and

enhance the production and marketing efficiency of the egg industry the town launched the country's first "World Egg Day" celebration in October 18, 2018.

San Jose's poultry production continues to provide higher income for farm owners, generate thousands of direct and indirect jobs, bring in revenues to the local government, and feed the Filipino population.

The egg industry in the town of San Jose continues to adjust to the demands of the times and its contribution to the country cannot be ignored.

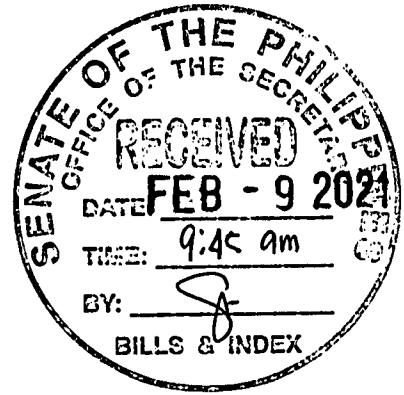
Thus, by declaring the Municipality of San Jose, Province of Batangas, as the "Egg Basket of the Philippines", we recognize the achievements of the San Jose and industriousness and its people.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage and approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

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

3
4 **SECTION. 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Egg Basket Act".**

5
6 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – The Municipality of San Jose in the Province of**
7 **Batangas is hereby declared as the "Egg Basket of the Philippines" in recognition of the**
8 **economic significance of its egg industry in both local and national levels.**

9
10 **SECTION 3. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication**
11 **in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.**

12
13 *Approved,*