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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 2243

(In substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 1334, 1450, 1685, 1718, 1870, 1932, 2185 taking into consideration Senate Resolution No. 211)

Prepared by the Committees on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform; Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; Finance; and Ways and Means with Senators Cynthia A. Villar, Joel Villanueva, Raffy T. Tulfo, Imee R. Marcos, Loren Legarda, Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay, and Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa as authors thereof.

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING AND REVITALIZING THE SALT INDUSTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES, 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 “Philippine Salt Industry Development Act”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to promote rural development based on sound agricultural productivity, increase in rural income through enterprises that make full and efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are competitive in both domestic and foreign markets. For this purpose, the State shall provide support through appropriate technology and research, and adequate financial, production, marketing, and other support services to revitalize the salt industry, attain increased production by salt farmers and salt producers, achieve salt self-sufficiency, and become a net exporter of salt.

It is further the policy of the State to preserve, protect, and rehabilitate...
the natural environment in the actualization of its developmental policies.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined as follows:

a. **Artisanal Salt** refers to unrefined salt, derived directly from a living sea or ocean, harvested through the process of cooking, smoking or solar evaporation. Regardless of the manner of production, it retains natural traces of minerals coming from sea water.

b. **Food-grade salt** refers to salt for human and animal consumption.

c. **Iodized salt** refers to salt artificially coated with iodine.

d. **Industrial salt** refers to salt used in the treatment, processing, and/or manufacture of non-food commercial products.

e. **Salt Farm** refers to areas of land, shorelines, or coastal areas, including its buildings, machineries, and equipment used in salt production. Salt farms may be classified as:

   i. **Small-scale Salt Farm**- salt farm of not more than three (3) hectares;

   ii. **Medium-scale Salt Farm**- salt farm of more than three (3) but not more than fifty (50) hectares;

   iii. **Large-scale Salt Farm**- salt farm of more than fifty (50) but not more than five hundred (500) hectares for individuals and not more than 1,000 hectares for an association, cooperative or corporation.

f. **Salt Producer** refers to an individual, corporation, cooperative or association involved in the production of salt.

g. **Salt Production** refers to the process of generating salt from salt water utilizing solar evaporation or cooking and other acceptable methods.

SEC. 4. Philippine Salt Industry Development Roadmap (Salt Roadmap). - For the attainment of the objectives of this Act, there shall be formulated and established a Philippine Salt Industry Development Roadmap (Salt Roadmap), which shall include, but not limited to, programs, projects and interventions for the development and management, research, processing,
utilization, business modernization, and commercialization of Philippine salt.

The Roadmap shall include the following objectives, among others:

a. Increase salt production in order to attain salt-self-sufficiency, and become a net exporter of salt;

b. Encourage salt farming and expand the number of salt-producing areas;

c. Ensure the sustainable production, management and harvesting, and soil and water conservation practices in salt-farming areas;

d. Promote public and private investments in the salt industry development programs;

e. Ensure the sustainability and viability of the salt industry through the establishment of cooperatives among salt farmers and salt producers in order to optimize local production and improve access to government interventions, assistance, and incentives;

f. Advance market access for Philippine salt products locally and internationally;

g. Support research and development (R&D) activities for salt production and processing and introduce new and appropriate technology based on R&D outputs;

h. Ensure regular funding for salt production, processing, commercial and marketing programs and projects and provide technical and financial assistance in the local design and fabrication of high-capacity processing equipment and machineries for the salt industry; and

i. Provide continuous training and capacity building in the salt industry development;

SEC. 5. Creation of Philippine Salt Industry Development Council (Salt Council). - To ensure the unified and integrated implementation of the Salt Roadmap and accelerate the modernization and industrialization of the Philippine Salt industry, a Philippine Salt Industry Development Council (Salt Council) is hereby created with the following composition:

(a) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA), as Chairperson;
(b) Director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), as Vice-Chairperson;

Members:
(c) Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
(d) Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
(e) Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
(f) Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH);
(g) Secretary of the Department of Tourism (DOT);
(h) Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);
(i) Chairperson of the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA);
(j) Chief Executive Officer of the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP); and
(k) One representative each from the League of Provinces of the Philippines, League of Cities of the Philippines, and League of Municipalities of the Philippines;
(l) One (1) representative from the private sector engaged in salt-production business;
(m) Three (3) representatives from the salt farmer cooperative, two (2) representing Luzon and one (1) representing Visayas and Mindanao.

Provided, That the representatives from business sector shall be chosen by BFAR from a list of three (3) nominees submitted to it by the sector; representatives from the cooperatives shall be chosen by BFAR from a list of five (5) nominees for Luzon and three (3) for the Visayas and Mindanao submitted to it by the sector.

SEC. 6. Functions of the Salt Council. - The Salt Council shall have the following powers and functions:

a. Formulate the five (5)-year Salt Roadmap, which shall contain the short-term, medium term, and long-term development plan (Development Plan) for the industry, which shall be updated yearly, or earlier, as determined by the Salt Council;
b. Identify specific and priority programs and projects in support of, and in line with the Roadmap;
c. Provide development funds and technical assistance to salt farmers and the industry. The support shall be commensurate to the size of the salt farm;
d. Identity sources of financing and facilitate credit windows with government banks and the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) to expand the salt industry development;
e. Increase production of local salt by increasing land area devoted to salt and improving farm productivity;
f. Institutionalize capacity building for salt farmers through the joint undertaking of the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) and BFAR provincial offices under the Post-Harvest Training Division (PHTD);
g. Strengthen market linkage and promotion of Philippine salt;
h. Conduct continuing research and development on innovation and modernization of the salt industry;
i. Establish an Agri-Insurance Program for Salt producers:
j. Submit annual reports, not later than June 30, to the Office of the President and to each House of Congress, on the status of the implementation of the Roadmap and the salt industry development in the country;
k. Recommend to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) the required yearly appropriations for the plan and implementation of the salt development programs;
l. Promulgate such rules and regulations, and exercise such other powers and functions, as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act; and
m. Constitute the staffing complement of the PMO-Secretariat with the power to create and abolish positions.

SEC. 7. Creation of a Program Management Office (PMO). — The DA, through the BFAR, shall lead in the implementation of the Development Plan. Towards this end, a Program Management Office (PMO) is hereby created
under the Office of the BFAR Director to oversee the overall implementation of
the Development Plan and the monitoring of its execution by the implementing
agencies and/or partners. Further, the PMO shall also assume and perform
secretariat functions such as to coordinate and manage the regular meetings
of the Salt Council, prepare and/or consolidate reports, monitor the
implementation of policy decisions that the Salt Council has adopted and liaise
with all the member departments and relevant agencies of the government.
The PMO shall have a staff complement, as approved by the Salt Council.

SEC. 8. Salt as an Aquatic Resource Product. – Salt, unprocessed
or processed, is hereby classified as an aquatic resource product.
The DA shall also ensure that salt is a priority commodity to be produced
locally in areas or regions identified in this Act. The required resources shall be
allocated by the DA for this purpose.

SEC. 9. Mapping and Determination of Public Lands for Salt
Production; Role of the DENR and BFAR. –
Most areas suitable for salt production are public lands which are
currently within the administrative jurisdiction of the DENR and the BFAR.
Pursuant to this Act, the DENR and its attached agency, the National
Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), and the BFAR are
hereby mandated to map out, identify, and designate public lands, including
portions of municipal waters, as salt production areas. They shall prioritize
public lands situated in the following provinces that are identified as suitable
for salt production (Type 1 Climate), namely: Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union,
Pangasinan, Zambales, Bataan, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan,
and Antique, which are now hereby declared as priority areas for salt
production. They shall finish the task within sixty (60) days from the effectivity
of this Act: Provided, That public lands in other regions shall also be
subsequently mapped out, identified and designated as potential salt
production areas, within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act:
Provided further, That the result of the mandatory mapping,
identification, and designation of public lands for salt production shall be shared
with the public, through the DENR and BFAR websites or otherwise, as their
respective agency rules shall allow, so as to inform interested salt industry
investors: Provided furthermore, That they shall also provide a report on the
completion of this mapping, identification, and designation to both Houses of
Congress through the COCAF.

SEC. 10. Transfer of Public Lands Identified as Suitable for Salt
Production from DENR to BFAR. — The DENR is hereby mandated to
transfer public lands mapped out, identified, and designated as suitable for salt
production under its administrative jurisdiction to BFAR. It shall do so within
ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 11. Allocation and Use of Public Lands for Salt Production;
Role of BFAR; Miscellaneous Provisions. --

BFAR is hereby mandated to allocate public lands for salt production to
qualified salt producers. For this purpose, it shall issue a tenurial instrument
(herein referred to as the Salt Production Tenurial Instrument) to qualified salt
producers for the use of these public lands, certified copies of which shall be
furnished the Salt Council through the PMO: Provided, That tenurial
instruments on public lands already issued to private entities shall be
respected: Provided furthermore, That tenurial instruments issued for salt
production shall be strictly used only for the purpose for which it was granted,
and that public land with salt farms shall not be converted to other uses, other
than for fisheries and aquaculture purposes: Provided furthermore, That the
procedure for such issuance shall take into utmost consideration Republic Act
No. 11032 or the “Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service
Delivery Act.”

a) Salt Production Tenurial Instrument (SPTI)

An application for a Salt Production Tenurial Instrument (SPTI) on a
public land for salt farm production shall be submitted to BFAR. BFAR shall issue
the SPTI to qualified salt producers, which shall indicate, inter alia, the
following:

1) Name and other relevant information about the grantee;
2) Terms and conditions in the use of the salt farm;
3) Period of use of the public land on which the salt farm is located;
4) Conditions for termination, which shall include an undertaking to meet the period within which the salt farm should have been constructed and in operation, reckoned from the approval and granting of the SPTI and to protect and preserve critical habitat for marine life in the area; and

5) Metes and bounds of the salt farm.

Provided, That nothing herein shall be added that contradicts the principles and provisions in the “Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act”: Provided further; That new/renewal/transfer of application for SPTI shall be submitted to the BFAR Provincial Office, which shall process and issue the SPTI applied for within forty five (45) days from the complete submission of the four (4) requirements enumerated in subparagraph (b) of this Section, failure in the issuance of which shall render the application approved and BFAR shall immediately issue the SPTI applied for to the applicant: Provided furthermore, That the SPTI shall bear at most two (2) signatures of the officers of BFAR.

b) Qualification of Salt Producers Applying for SPTI

The BFAR shall approve application for SPTI on the bases of only the following four (4) requirements:

1) Certificate of Registration as a salt producer, secured under Section 13 of this Act;

2) The applicant has an investible funds for actual use for salt farm development of not less than One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) per hectare of salt farm applied for, supported by a bank certification of the availability of such funds;

3) The applicant has an outstanding track record of engaging in salt farm business or other related business for at least three (3) years, or has an actual experience in salt production for at least three (3) years: Provided, That Cooperatives/Associations of marginalized salt producers/farmers may present certification and endorsement from the local government unit(s) within which their intended salt farm is
located of their capability to manage and operate a salt farm, in lieu of the three (3)-year period requirement; and

4) Payment of rental fee for the use of said public land in the amount equal to current rates exacted by BFAR on the use of these public lands.

Provided, That Cooperatives/Associations of marginalized salt producers/farmers shall be given preferential treatment in the grant of SPTI and shall be allowed rent-free use of the public land on which the salt farm and its facilities are built for a period of three (3) years from the start of salt farm operations: Provided further, That said Associations/Cooperatives shall present authenticity of the nature and composition of its members through Certification from the local office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the LGU where he/she resides: Provided furthermore, That misdeclaration or falsification or any other false deed to conceal the real nature and composition of its members shall render its officers liable for criminal acts under existing laws.

c) Period of Use of Public Land for Salt Farm

The salt producer with a SPTI shall be allowed use of public land for salt production for twenty-five (25) years, renewable for another twenty-five (25) years: Provided, That the lease agreement shall be subject to early termination upon a determination by BFAR, upon due process, of the grantee’s violation of the provision(s) in the SPTI.

d) Limitations on the Size of Salt Farms

Individuals may lease up to five hundred (500) hectares of salt farms. Corporations, associations, and cooperatives may lease up to 1,000 hectares. A lease applicant may apply for a lease for more than one area and hold several lease agreements, but in no case shall the total area of such multiple lease agreements exceed the limits prescribed under this provision.

SEC. 12. Utilization of Public Lands Already Issued Fishpond Lease Agreements (FLAs) for Salt Production; Other forms of public land possession. — Fishpond Lease Agreements (FLAs) issued by BFAR before the enactment of this law may now include salt production as among the valid
activities that may be undertaken by the lessee: Provided, That if the lessee so decides to engage in salt production, such lease agreement, or such portion of that public land under the FLA to be used for salt production, shall be governed by the provisions of this Act. In such case, the already issued FLA shall be amended accordingly to reflect salt production: Provided, That the period in the amended FLA for salt production shall state the full twenty-five (25)-year period.

If other public lands identified for salt production purposes under this Act are already in the possession of private entities, BFAR shall notify the possessor that such public land has been identified as suitable for salt production, and if the possessor shall accede to develop such public land into salt production area, then the process of developing the area into salt production shall continue in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 13. Registration as Salt Producer; Control Measures. — All salt producers, whether holders of SPTI or otherwise, shall register with the BFAR. The BFAR shall draw a list of qualification requirements for salt producers, which shall take with utmost consideration the “Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act”.

Upon complete submission of the qualification requirements, BFAR shall issue the Certificate of Registration as a salt producer, or a notice of the denial of the application for registration, accompanied by an explanation for such denial, within forty-five (45) days from completion. The failure of BFAR to act on the application renders the application approved, and it shall immediately issue the said Certificate of Registration. An appeal for such denial shall be filed with the BFAR Director within fifteen (15) days from receipt of Notice of Denial, which in turn shall be decided with administrative finality by the Director, within fifteen (15) days from filing.

BFAR shall continue to implement measures ensuring compliance of salt producers with food safety laws and guidelines intended for human and animal consumption: Provided, That any salt product which is not intended for food consumption shall not be subjected to food safety laws and guidelines. In this regard, BFAR shall tap the expertise of the Philippine Council for Agriculture,
Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) and the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI).

The BFAR Regional Offices shall ensure that pure, un-iodized salt shall be issued the necessary transport permits and certification documents.

**SEC. 14. Support for the Development of Salt Farms and Salt Producers.** -

The DA-BFAR, in consultation with individuals, corporations, associations, and cooperatives from the salt industry, shall provide technical support in the development and operation of existing salt farms. It shall assist in the design of small and medium scale artisanal salt farms, either on its own or through partnership with the private sector, while the DOST shall provide the necessary technology in the construction of large-scale salt farms employing modern technologies to increase production efficiency and environmentally-sound practices.

BFAR is hereby mandated and authorized to grant financial and technical assistance to small and medium scale salt producers, indirectly through its implementing partners, or directly through its own projects and programs for the salt industry, on the following concerns:

- a) Establishment of salt farm warehouses;
- b) Provision of salt production materials, machinery, and equipment;
- c) Conduct of capability building/training;
- d) Establishment and strengthening of salt producers cooperative;
- e) Development of modern salt production and processing technology.

This mandate shall be funded out of the regular annual budget of BFAR, and from other sources by law or otherwise, over and above what BFAR has been receiving on its other programs.

**SEC. 15. Construction of Salt Farm Roads.** - Consistent with the Development Plan, the DA-BFAR, in coordination with the Local Government Units (LGUs) and the resident-salt producers, shall identify priority locations of roads linking the salt farms to the market, which shall be known as *Daan Asinan*. In the construction of the *Daan Asinan*, the DA-BFAR shall consider the investment cost for salt production in the area, the number of salt producers...
and their families who shall benefit from the venture and the amount of salt produced or to be potentially produced in the salt production areas. Thereafter, the DA-BFAR shall coordinate with the DPWH for the latter to undertake the construction, improvement, and maintenance of the Daan Asinan.

**SEC. 16. Research and Promotion of Salt Farming Methodologies and Techniques.** - The Department of Agriculture- National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (DA-NFRDI), in close coordination with the DOST, shall spearhead the development of the latest technology in salt production, particularly technology that allows year-round production of salt even under erratic weather patterns. It shall also develop technologies that promote alternative methods and cost-effective techniques in salt production.

The DA-NFRDI shall immediately transfer the results of their completed study/technology/product to salt producers/manufacturers.

**SEC. 17. Training Programs.** - The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) and BFAR shall provide complementary training programs that shall develop and upgrade the skills and competencies of Philippine salt producers, ensure product traceability and compliance to food safety, hasten technology acquisition including product labelling and packaging, enhance skills on market positioning for Philippine artisanal/specialty and industrial salts and such other capabilities necessary in the maintenance and development of the local salt industry.

**SEC. 18. Corps of Salt Production Trainers.** – Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, BFAR shall form the Corps of Trainers for salt production, whose members shall be recruited from BFAR personnel in the provinces, under the PHTD; experts from State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) with a track record for studying and researching on salt production and post-production techniques and technology; experts from ATI; and from practitioners in actual salt farm production in the country. The Corps members shall be tasked to help out in the establishment of salt farms in areas designated as such by this Act. BFAR shall spend for their travel, lodging, honoraria and other necessary expenses, within existing budgetary rules.
SEC. 19. Model Salt Farms. - BFAR shall establish model salt farms from existing salt farms in the country, at least two (2) in Luzon, one (1) each in the Visayas and Mindanao, within three hundred sixty-five (365) days from the effectivity of this Act. The model farms shall showcase the best practices in salt farm production and use of technology. They shall be visited and studied by salt producers all over the country.

SEC. 20. Salt Farmers Cooperatives and Association. - The Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) shall assist in the formation, organizational strengthening, and financial literacy of cooperatives and their local salt farmers-members and producers. It shall aim to build capabilities of cooperatives and associations to leverage their own resources, run sustainable operations, and increase the number of successful cooperative-managed salt farms in the country.

SEC. 21. Trade and Export Assistance. - The DTI and the DA shall assist and support local salt producers in the trade and exportation of their product. They shall enhance the capabilities and global competitiveness of potential and existing producers and exporters through export financing; business matching; provision of trade and market information; organization of trade fairs and business missions; conduct of seminars, workshops, conferences and symposium on export-related subjects, including export documentation and procedures; product design and development; and market and product consultancy. The government shall give preference to locally produced salt in government purchases.

SEC. 22. Role of LGUs. - LGUs shall, as far as practicable, establish their respective Salt Industry Development Task Force (Salt Task Force). LGUs shall regularly conduct a survey of existing salt farms and salt processing enterprises in their respective localities.

LGUs in cooperation with the DENR, BFAR, DA-NFRDI, and DTI and the appropriate DOST-Regional Office shall identify appropriate areas for local salt production in their respective localities.
SEC. 23. Importation and Exportation of Salts. - No person shall import and/or export salt without first securing a permit from the following agencies:

a. DA-BFAR and DOH-FDA- for food grade salt; and
b. DA-BFAR- for non-food grade salt.

The DOH-FDA and DA-BFAR are hereby mandated to harmonize and streamline their processes.

SEC 24. Mandatory Use of Domestically-Produced Salt. – The government shall mandate the use of domestically-produced salt in its programs, including the fertilization of coconut farms by the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA).

SEC. 25. National Iodization Program. - Notwithstanding the provisions of Republic Act No. 8172 or the “ASIN Law”, salt iodization for food-grade salt is hereby rendered optional in the country, thereby modifying accordingly Sections 3 and 5 of said Act: Provided, That the DOH shall review and continue in the implementation of the existing national iodization program and shall explore and institutionalize programs to continue salt iodization in the country. Such programs shall encourage and incentivize salt producers to iodize the production of food-grade salt.

For this purpose, the DOH shall develop guidelines for the implementation of this new mandate, taking into consideration international trade nuances and standards impacting on local food manufacturers and exporters.

The DOST-forest Products Research and Development Institute (DOST-FPRDI) is hereby tasked to develop and implement a comprehensive program for the acquisition, design, and manufacture of salt iodization equipment, and the further development of salt iodization technology.

SEC. 26. Incentives. - The following incentives shall be provided to investors in salt farms development and salt processing facilities:

a. The Board of Investments shall classify salt farms as preferred areas of investment under its Investment Priorities Plan (IPP) subject to pertinent rules and regulations;
b. Salt farm owners, salt processors and other related businesses shall be exempt from the payment of import duties for imported machines and equipment to be actually and directly used in their businesses, subject to pertinent rules and regulations;

c. The salt producers and processors shall be given priority to access credit assistance and guarantee schemes granted by Government Financial Institutions (GFIs); and

d. Salt farm development and their equipment shall be covered by the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation.

SEC. 27. Tariff on Salt. – There shall be levied, collected, and paid upon all imported salt a duty of nine percent (9%) ad valorem, subject to existing free trade agreements.

Tariff collections shall be credited automatically to a special account with the National Treasury, which shall be in place within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, for the purpose of developing the salt industry.

Salt imports include imported products under the following HS headings or AHTN Codes, the Descriptions:

2501 – Salt (including table salt and denatured salt) and pure sodium chloride, whether or not in aqueous solution of containing added anti-caking or free flowing agents; sea water.

i. 2501.00.10 - Table salt

ii. 2501.00.20 - Unprocessed rock salt

iii. 2501.00.50 - Sea water

iv. - Other

v. 2501.00.51 - Salt, denatured, industrial

vi. 2501.00.91 - With sodium chloride content more than 60% but less than 97%, calculated on a dry basis, fortified with iodine.

vii. 2501.00.93 - Other, with sodium chloride content 97% or more but less than 99.9%, calculated on a dry basis.

ix. 2501.00.99 - Other

Development and Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (SIDCEF) is hereby created from the salt tariff collections account with the National Treasury. The allocation and utilization of the SIDCEF shall be subject to the following guidelines:

a) SIDCEF shall be earmarked, released, and implemented as follows:
   1) Establishment of salt farm warehouses/storage areas; twenty-five percent (25%) of the available fund at a given time; to be utilized and implemented by BFAR;
   2) Provision of salt production materials, machinery, and equipment; twenty-five percent (25%); to be utilized and implemented by BFAR;
   3) Conduct of capability building/training; fifteen percent (15%); to be utilized and implemented equally by the ATI and BFAR Provincial Offices;
   4) Provision of easy-access, low-interest loans; ten percent (10%); to be serviced by LBP;
   5) Establishment and strengthening of salt producers cooperative; five percent (5%); to be implemented by the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA);
   6) Development of modern salt production and processing technology; ten percent (10%); to be utilized and implemented by the NFRDI;
   7) Construction of Roads or “Daan Asinari”; ten percent (10%); to be utilized and implemented by DPWH.

b) The Secretary of the DA and BFAR Director shall be accountable and responsible for the management and utilization of the said fund in coordination with the other government agencies concerned;

c) The amount allocated shall be released directly to the implementing agencies as provided for in this Act based on the objectives of the Salt Industry Development Roadmap. *Provided*, That the unutilized portion of the SIDCEF shall not revert to the general fund but shall continue to be used for the purpose for which it was set aside. The fund releases shall not be subject to any ceiling by the DBM; and
d) Any program undertaken in accordance with this Act shall only be
deemed complementary and supplementary to, and shall not be a
replacement of any existing programs for the fisherfolk already
implemented by the DA-BFAR and other agencies concerned.

SEC. 29. Powers of the President. – Notwithstanding Section 27 of
this Act and consistent with the Philippine national interest and the objective of
safeguarding local salt producers and consumers, the President is hereby
empowered to act with full delegated authority subject to the provisions of the
Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA), in the following circumstances:
   a) The President may revise or adjust existing rates of customs
duties on salt imports consonant with the country’s international agreements,
including any necessary change in classification applicable to their importation:
Provided, That the adjustment is time-bound and that the power herein
deedated to the President shall only be exercised when Congress is not in
session: Provided further, That any order issued by the President adjusting the
applied tariff rates shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication;
   b) In the event of any imminent or forecasted shortage, or such
other situation requiring government intervention, the President is empowered
for a limited period and/or a specified volume, to allow the importation of salt
at a lower applied tariff rate to address the situation. Such order shall take
effect immediately and can be issued even when Congress is in session.

The power herein delegated to the President may be withdrawn or
terminated by Congress through a joint resolution.

SEC. 30. Reporting. - The various departments and agencies specified
in this Act shall provide regular updates to the Salt Council on the progress of
their programs and activities toward the realization of the objectives of this Act.
SEC. 31. Congressional Oversight. - The Congressional Oversight
Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization (COCAFM) shall regularly
exercise its oversight powers to ensure full implementation of this Act.
SEC. 32. Agencies Regular Programs. - The additional mandates,
functions and activities of the various departments and agencies provided for
and identified in this Act shall be considered regular programs and shall be
funded accordingly in their annual budgets.

SEC. 33. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the effective
implementation of this Act shall be taken from the appropriations of the BFAR.
Thereafter, such amount as may be needed for the continued implementation
of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 34. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared
invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions of this Act not affected by such
declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 35. Repealing Clause. — Sections 3 and 5 of Republic Act No.
8172 or the “ASIN Law” are modified accordingly. All laws, decrees, orders,
rules and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the
provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 36. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2)
newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,