

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1835

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INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

For a country where bamboos grow wild, it's a wonder why the bamboo industry remains in its infancy. As admitted in the Bamboo Information Network (Bamboonet), the databank for the bamboo sector within the Department of Science and Technology website, "The bamboo processing industry has been in existence for quite sometime. However, this sector's influence in the country's economic development has been, at best marginal."

The state of the bamboo industry in the Philippines is "a tragic". We have an abundance of bamboo but we do not know much about it. It is so common that we ignore its potentials. The bamboo processing industry, on the other hand, is at best very small and thinly spread across the archipelago.

The Philippines is blessed with 64 species of rattan. Twelve of the rattan species have commercial value. In spite of the huge rattan resources, the country still imports rattan to supplement local demand. This is because present rattan utilization pattern will deplete supply of local and global markets if production is not augmented.

This bill aims to address the pressing problems of the bamboo and rattan industries by creating Philippine Bamboo and Rattan Center which shall be under the supervision and control of the Department of Agriculture. Its functions, among others, will be to conserve, propagate and promote bamboo and rattan as sources of food, furniture and light construction materials and other industrial products and to enable the farmers, particularly smallholder farmers and CARP beneficiaries to avail themselves of high quality bamboo and rattan planting stocks at all times and at reasonable prices through an organized program of propagation, breeding, training and distribution.

In view of the foregoing considerations, approval of this bill is sincerely sought.



MANNY VILLAR

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**AN ACT  
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE BAMBOO AND RATTAN CENTER (PBRC) TO  
CONSERVE, PROPAGATE AND PROMOTE BAMBOO AND RATTAN SPECIES**

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

**SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Bamboo and Rattan Act.”

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

**SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – The following terms shall mean:

- a) “Bamboo and Rattan Center” refers to the Bamboo and Rattan centers in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, and those that will be created pursuant to this Act;
- b) “Rattan” refers to all members of the climbing palm belonging to Subfamily Calamoideae of the Family Palmae or Arecaceae;
- c) “Bamboo” refers to all members of the tall or shrubby grasses with woody culms under the Subfamily Bambusoideae of the Family Graminae or Poaceae;
- d) “Smallholder farmer” refers to a farmer owning or cultivating a farmland of less than or equal to five (5) hectares;
- e) “Semi-Commercial Production” refers to a farmer owning or cultivating a farmland of more than five (5) hectares.

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

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

- a) Conserve, propagate and promote bamboo and rattan as sources of food, furniture and light construction materials and other industrial products;
- b) Enable the farmers, particularly smallholder farmers and CARP beneficiaries to avail themselves of high quality bamboo and rattan planting stocks at all times and at reasonable prices through an organized program of propagation, breeding, training and distribution;
- c) Undertake training programs for farmers, particularly smallholder farmers and CARP beneficiaries, designed to transfer technology on the proper establishment procedure of bamboo and rattan plantations and efficient processing of bamboo and rattan products;
- d) Encourage small farm owners to engage in bamboo and rattan plantation development and processing business to improve their living conditions;
- e) Undertake research activities in all disciplines that lead to the improvement of the over-all productivity of the bamboo and rattan;
- f) Increase the existing plantation of bamboo and rattan to keep pace with human population growth; and
- g) Enter into memoranda of agreement and receive donations through the Department of Agriculture from local and foreign sources. Upon the recommendation of the PBRC Advisory Board, the individual bamboo and rattan centers may enter into agreements directly with funding agencies through their respective board of regents or head of agency.

SEC. 6. Priorities. – The PBRC shall give priority to the following activities:

- a) Expand bamboo and rattan plantations and improve the per unit area productivity;
- b) Development of bamboo and rattan plantation establishment procedure for backyard and semi-commercial production, improving planting materials production efficiency, physiology and schemes to reduce losses caused by pests and diseases;
- c) Propagation, breeding, site species matching and plant nutrition;
- d) Socio-economic researches to ensure economic viability and acceptance of technology by farmers; and
- e) Development of appropriate technologies that are cost-effective, simple and practical. At least five (5) hectares bamboo setum and five (5) hectares rattan gene bank shall be established by each bamboo and rattan center to ensure the preservation of the existing bamboo and rattan genetic materials in the Philippines and provide option to the farmers.

SEC. 7. PBRC Advisory Board. - The PBRC Advisory Board shall be composed of the following:

- a) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture or his representative, as Chairman;

- b) Undersecretary for Regional Operations, Department of Agriculture, as Vice Chairman;
- c) Executive Director, Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources, Research and Development (PCARRD);
- d) Director, Bureau of Agricultural Research, Department of Agriculture
- e) President of the Pampanga Agricultural College (PAC) in Magalang, Pampanga; Chancellor of the UP Los Banos (UPLB) in Laguna; and Presidents of Tarlac College of Agriculture (TCA) in Camiling Tarlac; Ramon Magsaysay Technological University (RMTU) in San Marcelino, Zambales; Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) in Batac, Ilocos Norte; Leyte University (LSU) in Baybay, Leyte; West Visayas State University (WVSU) in Iloilo; Central Mindanao University (CMU) in Bukidnon; Sultan Kudarat Polytechnic State College (SKPSC) in Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat; and Western Philippine State University (WPSU) in Aborlan Palawan; and the president of the state college or university where rattan and bamboo center may be established pursuant to this Act;
- f) Director of the Bureau of Plant Industry;
- g) Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau;
- h) Executive Director of PBRC; and
- i) Farmers' representative to be appointed by the Board.

SEC. 8. Functions of the PBRC Advisory Board. – The PBRC Advisory Board shall perform the following functions:

- a) Formulate policies, programs and projects for the development of the bamboo and rattan industry;
- b) Review and recommend the annual budget of the PBRC;
- c) Evaluate the implementation, efficiency and effectiveness of the programs and projects of the PBRC; and
- d) Recommend the establishment or abolition of bamboo and rattan centers as may be deemed necessary.

SEC. 9. Executive Director of PBRC. – The Executive Director of PBRC shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. The Executive Director of the PBRC shall perform the following functions:

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

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

SEC.11. Functions of the Directors or Center Chiefs of Other Bamboo and Rattan Centers. – Subject to the policies of the PBRC, the Directors or Center Chiefs of other bamboo and rattan centers shall perform the following functions:

- a) Administer the policies, programs and projects of the PBRC in their respective centers & areas of responsibility;
- b) Recommend the creation of divisions and sections including the staffing pattern of the centers;
- c) Prepare the annual budget of their centers;
- d) Approve the expenditures of their respective budgets;
- e) Recommend to their respective heads of agency the appointment of personnel or consultants;
- f) Recommend policies, programs and projects to the Executive Director of the PBRC; and
- g) Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Executive Director of the PBRC.

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

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

SEC. 14. Beneficiaries. – The beneficiaries of CARP and other smallholder farmers shall be given priority in the bamboo and rattan distribution program.

SEC. 15. Participation of the Department of Agriculture and Local Government Units. – The bamboo and rattan centers, the regional and provincial offices of the Department of Agriculture, specifically the Bureau of Plant Industry, and the local government units shall implement a bamboo and rattan and propagation program within their respective areas in accordance with the national policy and program of the PBRC. The PBRC shall adopt a national dispersal program to primarily benefit the smallholder

farmers and CARP beneficiaries. Any income from the sale of bamboo and rattan shall be placed in a revolving fund to be used in the propagation and distribution of bamboo and rattan.

SEC. 16. Use of Funds. – Not more than fifty percent (50%) of funds allocated under this Act and in subsequent annual appropriations shall be used for personal services, and maintenance and operating expenses, ten percent (10%) for research and development, forty percent (40%) for bamboo and rattan dispersal and distribution. All income generated by the PBRC as well as donations shall be used to augment the budget of the center with an annual expenditure program to be recommended and approved by the Board. The office of the President through PAGCOR shall also allocate fifty million yearly for Bamboo and Rattan Processing and entrepreneurship assistance to farmers/growers; bamboo processors and for research/development and extension activities.

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

SEC.18. Transfer of Bamboo and Rattan Programs to PBRC. – Upon approval of this Act, the existing Bamboo and Rattan programs and projects implemented by various agencies shall be transferred to the PBRC.

SEC.19. Appropriation. – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter. Initial funding shall be sourced out by the government thru Official Development Assistance of China in the amount of five million US dollars with counterpart funding from Philippine government.

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

SEC. 21. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,