


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

8 APR 28 P 4 31

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. NO. 2209

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

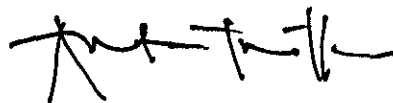
EXPLANATORY NOTE

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 eventually contribute to the growth of the Philippine economy for its high potentials 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 socio-economic 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 approval of this measure is earnestly requested.




ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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8 APR 28 P 4:42

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S. NO. 2209

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

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Bamboo and Rattan Act of 2008*”.

2

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

9

10 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

11 a) “Bamboo and Rattan Center” refers to the Philippine National Bamboo and Rattan Center
12 at the Pampanga Agricultural College in Magalang, Pampanga, the other bamboo and
13 rattan centers in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, and those that will be created pursuant to
14 the enactment of this Act.;

15 b) “Rattan” refers to all members of the climbing palm belonging to Subfamily Calamoideae
16 of the Family Palmae or Arecaceae;

- 1 c) "Bamboo" refers to all members of the tall or shrubby grasses with woody culms under
2 the Subfamily Bambusoideae of the Family Graminae or Poaceae;
- 3 d) "Smallholder Farmer" refers to a farmer owning or cultivating a farmland of less than or
4 equal to five (5) hectares;
- 5 e) "Semi-Commercial Production" refers to a farmer owning or cultivating a farmland of
6 more than five (5) hectares;

7

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

11

12 **SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions of the PBRC.*** – The PBRC shall have the following
13 powers and functions:

- 14 a) Conserve, propagate and promote bamboo and rattan as sources of food, furniture
15 and light construction materials and other industrial products;
- 16 b) Enable the farmers, particularly smallholder farmers and CARP beneficiaries to
17 avail themselves of high quality bamboo and rattan planting stocks at all times and
18 at reasonable prices through an organized program of propagation, breeding,
19 training and distribution;
- 20 c) Undertake training programs for farmers, particularly smallholder farmers and
21 CARP beneficiaries, designed to transfer technology on the proper processing of
22 bamboo and rattan products;
- 23 d) Encourage small farms owners to engage in bamboo and rattan plantation
24 development and processing business to improve their living conditions;
- 25 e) Undertake research activities in all disciplines that lead to the improvement of the
26 over-all productivity of the bamboo and rattan;

- 1 f) Increase the existing plantation of bamboo and rattan to keep with human
2 population growth; and
- 3 g) Enter into memoranda of agreement and receive donations through the Department
4 of Agriculture from local and foreign sources. Upon the recommendation of the
5 PBRC Advisory Board, the individual bamboo and rattan centers may enter into
6 agreements directly with funding agencies through their respective board of regents
7 of head of agency.

8

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

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

22

23 **SEC. 7. *PBRC Advisory Board.*** – The PBRC Advisory Board shall be composed of the
24 following:

- 25 a) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture or his representative, as Chairman;
- 26 b) Undersecretary for Regional Operations, Department of Agriculture, as Vice
27 Chairman;

- 1 c) Executive Director, Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural
2 Resources, Research and Development (PCARRD);
- 3 d) Director, Bureau of Agricultural Research, Department of Agriculture;
- 4 e) President of the Pampanga Agricultural College (PAC) in Magalang, Pampanga;
5 Chancellor of the UP Los Baños (UPLB) in Laguna; and the Presidents of Tarlac
6 College of Agriculture (TCA) in Camiling, Tarlac; Ramon Magsaysay Technological
7 University (RMTU) in San Marcelino, Zambales; Mariano Marcos State University
8 (MMSU) in Batac, Ilocos norte; Leyte State University (LSU) in Baybay, Leyte;
9 West Visayas State University (WVSU) in Iloilo; central Mindanao University
10 (CMSU) in Bukidnon; Sultan Kudarat Polytechnic College (SKPSC) in Tacurong,
11 Sultan Kudarat; and Western Philippine University (WPU) in Aborlan, Palawan; and
12 the president of the state college or university where a rattan and bamboo center may
13 be established pursuant to this Act;
- 14 f) Director of the Bureau of Plant Industry;
- 15 g) Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau;
- 16 h) Executive Director of PBRC; and
- 17 i) Farmers' representative to be appointed by the Board.
- 18

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

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

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

- 4 a) Oversee the implementation of the policies, programs, and projects of the PBRC;
- 5 b) Assist the PBRC Advisory Board in the review, evaluation and monitoring of the
6 Bamboo and Rattan Program; and
- 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 appointed
11 by the respective board of regents or head of agency.

12
13 **SEC. 11. *Functions of the Directors or Center Chiefs of Other Bamboo and Rattan***
14 ***Centers.*** – Subject to the policies of the PBRC, the Directors or Center Chiefs of other bamboo
15 and rattan centers shall perform the following functions:

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

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

19
20 **SEC. 13. *Farmer’s Participation.*** – The farmer-participants shall be encouraged to
21 establish strong farmers’ association or cooperatives to serve as focal point for government
22 assistance in the propagation and distribution of bamboo and rattan and the dissemination of
23 technology on bamboo and rattan.

24
25 **SEC. 14. *Beneficiaries.*** – The beneficiaries of the CARP and other smallholder farmers
26 shall be given priority in the bamboo and rattan distribution program.

27

1 **SEC. 15. *Participation of the Department of Agriculture and Local Government Units.***

2 – The bamboo and rattan centers, the regional and provincial offices of the Department of
3 Agriculture, specifically the Bureau of Plant Industry, and the local government units shall
4 implement a bamboo and rattan distribution and propagation program within their respective
5 areas in accordance with the national policy and program of the PBRC. The PBRC shall adopt a
6 national dispersal program to primarily benefit the smallholder farmers and CARP beneficiaries.
7 Any income from the sale of bamboo and rattan shall be placed in a revolving fund to be used
8 in the propagation and distribution of bamboo and rattan.

9
10 **SEC. 16. *Use of Funds.*** – Not more than fifty percent (50%) of funds allocated under
11 this Act and in subsequent annual appropriations shall be used for personal services, and
12 maintenance and operating expenses, ten percent (10%) for research and development, forty
13 percent (40%) for bamboo and rattan dispersal and distribution. All income generated by the
14 PBRC, as well as donations, shall be used to augment the budget of the center with an annual
15 expenditure program to be recommended and approved by the Board. The Office of the
16 President, through PAGCOR, shall also allocate 50M yearly for Bamboo and Rattan Processing
17 and entrepreneurship assistance to farmers/growers; bamboo processors and for
18 research/development and extension activities.

19
20 **SEC. 17. *Annual Report.*** – The PBRC shall submit an annual report to the Office of the
21 President, the Senate, and the House of Representatives indicating among others hectareage of
22 established bamboo and rattan plantations, the number of bamboo and rattan distributed, and the
23 names of the beneficiaries.

24
25 **SEC. 18. *Transfer of Bamboo and Rattan Programs to the PBRC.*** – Upon approval of
26 this Bill, the extending Bamboo and Rattan programs and projects implemented by various
27 agencies shall be transferred to the PBRC.

1 **SEC. 19. *Appropriation.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act
2 shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law
3 thereafter.

4

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

7

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

12

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

Approved,