

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4009



Introduced by HON. HENRY R. VILLARICA
4TH DISTRICT, BULACAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Bamboo stands can help us adapt to climate change, i.e., protect us against extreme weather events and disasters. Growing bamboo can reduce the sensitivity of ecosystems and help to rehabilitate degraded lands. With its specially adapted roots that grow along the surface of the soil, called rhizomes, bamboo spreads slowly outward from the original planting. These are called clumping bamboos. On the other hand, non-clumping or running bamboo has long rhizomes that can send up new shoots many feet from the original planting. These may minimize the impact of gusty winds during storms. Studies indicate that bamboo can sequester more carbon than comparable fast growing trees. Bamboos likewise show that it has the potential to grow on degraded land; as such bamboo offers an option to be included in afforestation or reforestation schemes. This means that it can mitigate climate change.

Rattan is used for various purposes: As food, its inner core and shoot of some of its species are edible; furniture is the main end product of rattan; as shelter, it is an approved material for house building in rural areas; and handicraft is the main income of the rattan industry. Also, the peeled off skin of rattan strands is used for weaving while the "core" of the rattan can be used for various purposes in furniture making (wicker). It grows best under some sort of tree cover including secondary forest, fruit orchards, tree plantations or rubber estates. As a result, rattan planting indirectly protects tree cover, along with forests.

In view of the ill-effects brought about by climate change such as rainwater flooding and storm surges as well as the need to uplift the economic conditions of the poor, this proposed bill provides for an Integrated National Bamboo and Rattan Development Program and identifies specific areas for propagation, breeding, plant nutrition, site species matching and processing.

This bill was filed during the 16th and 17th Congresses but was not taken up due to time constraints. This is presently re-filed in this 18th Congress for its consideration.

Support for the enactment of this measure is earnestly requested.

REP. HENRY R. VILLARICA

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4TH DISTRICT, BULACAN

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR AN INTEGRATED NATIONAL BAMBOO AND RATTAN
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE BAMBOO AND
RATTAN CENTERS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Integrated National Bamboo-Rattan Centers and Program Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State to promote a program to achieve environmental equilibrium and ecological awareness through the conduct of scientific and technological studies on the application and utility of bamboo and rattan. This program shall likewise develop a framework that will facilitate the use of these indigenous products to establish a self-reliant and independent national economy for the Filipinos.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- (a) *Bamboo and Rattan Center* refers to the Philippine National Bamboo and Rattan Centers as indicated under Section 5 of this Act;
- (b) *Bamboo* refers to all members of the tall or shrubby grasses with woody clumps under the Subfamily Bambusoideae of the Family Graminae or Poaceae;
- (c) *Rattan* refers to all members of the climbing palm belonging to Subfamily Calamoideae of the Family Palmae or Arecaceae;
- (d) *Small holder 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. *The Integrated National Bamboo and Rattan Development Program (INBRDP).* – The INBRDP seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- (a) Propagation of high quality, genetically superior planting stocks through biotechnology to reduce losses caused by pests and diseases;
- (b) Dispersal or distribution of planting materials to be disposed at nominal amount. This should benefit the small holder farmers and CARP beneficiaries;
- (c) Production or bamboo farming and/or plantation development and management for backyard and semi-commercial production;
- (d) Utilization, processing and marketing including high value product development;
- (e) Training and extension, including technology packaging and transfer;
- (f) Research and technology;
- (g) Socio-economic researches to ensure economic viability and acceptance of technology by farmers;
- (h) Establishment of at least five (5) hectares of bamboo setum and five (5) hectares rattan gene bank to ensure the preservation of the existing bamboo and rattan genetic materials in the Philippines and provide option to the farmers.

SEC. 5. *Establishing the Bamboo and Rattan Centers.* – The following centers are established to specialize the development of technology on propagation, breeding, plant nutrition, site species matching, and processing of bamboo and rattan raw materials:

- (a) Luzon area centers – Pampanga Agricultural College (PAC), Municipality of Magalang, Province of Pampanga; UP Los Baños (UPLB), Province of Laguna; Tarlac College of Agriculture (TCA), Municipality of Camiling, Province of Tarlac; Ramon Magsaysay Technological University (RMTU), Municipality of San Marcelino, Province of Zambales; and Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) in Ilocos Norte.
- (b) Visayas area centers – Leyte State University (LSU), Municipality of Baybay, Province of Leyte; and West Visayas State University (WVSU), Province of Iloilo
- (c) Mindanao area centers – Central Mindanao University (CMU), Province of Bukidnon; Sultan Kudarat Polytechnic State College (SKPSC), Municipality of Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat; and Western Philippine State University (WPSU), Municipality of Aborlan, Province of Palawan.

SEC. 6. *Role of the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Farmers' groups.* – The Department of Agriculture (DA) through the Bureau of Plant Industry and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) through the local government units shall implement a bamboo and rattan distribution and propagation program within their respective areas in accordance with the INBRDP as provided for under Section 4 of this Act.

Farmers' associations or cooperatives are encouraged to participate in in the propagation and distribution of bamboo and rattan as well as disseminate its technology.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Thereafter, the funds necessary to fully implement this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Acr (GAA) under the budgetary appropriations of the DA and DENR.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall promulgate and issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, a provision or part hereof is declared invalid, the other provisions of this Act not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,