



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

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3540**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RECEIVED

DATE: **07 SEP 2016**

TIME: **3: 45 PM**

BY: **REL**

REGISTRATION UNIT
BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

Introduced by Representative Sharon S. Garin

Explanatory Note

The Philippines is considered as one of the seventeen mega-diverse countries in the world as well as a global biodiversity hotspot. Having a tropical rainforest climate, the country is rich in animal biodiversity. The terrain changes throughout the archipelago, from tropical rainforests to dense swamp lands, created an environment suitable for various kinds of animals, including the commonly termed *native animals*.

Native animals are those animals that are indigenous to a given region or ecosystem. They have developed unique physical characteristics and behavioral patterns that enable them to survive and reproduce under their respective natural environments with minimum human intervention. In fact, majority of the animals which survived Super Typhoon Haiyan were native animals.

According to the Food and Fertilizer Technology Center (FFTC), a research institution based in Taiwan committed to a sustainable agricultural development in Asia and the Pacific, native animals are important components of most agricultural production systems in rural areas of the Asian region. These animals are a source of high quality protein. They also help in generating additional income for small-scale farmers and other rural dwellers.

Except for native chickens which have a population of 78,460,000 out of the total 176,850,000 chickens in the country as of 1 July 2013, there is no available statistical data on most native animals separate from the general data of agricultural products provided by the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS).

Although native animals have provided valuable contributions in the cultural, social, and economic status of farming communities in the rural areas, these animals have not been given special attention unlike other poultry and livestock products. Major setbacks have been identified in the slow growth rate and inconsistencies in production involving native animals. The lack of adequate research infrastructure in the country and the appropriate technology in promoting and propagating local breeds has hindered the development of this sector for years.

In 2010, the Department of Agriculture (DA) ordered the establishment of a program for the conservation, development and utilization of native food animals such as chickens, pigs and ducks which Filipinos usually domesticate for food. The program includes the government's vision of adapting to the impact of climate change which will enable these native animals to survive in adverse weather conditions. The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) was mandated by the DA to formulate a road map for the development and utilization of these domesticated native food animals in consultation with various stakeholders. Thus, it created the Philippine Native Animals Development (PNAD) Program. However, there are still many areas that need further research and development on native animals. More concrete steps should be undertaken by the government in order to promote and preserve these native breeds.

This bill aims to enact policies that would (1) promote the scientific propagation of native animals in the country by introducing an effective animal breeding system; (2) develop and promote native animals as a reliable source of regular food for the Filipinos and as a potential niche product of the Philippines; (3) strengthen research and development on native animals, particularly in the preservation of their genetic make-up; (4) increase the contribution of native animals in the country's gross domestic product (GDP); and (5) develop farming standards and good practices on native animals.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



SHARON S. GARIN
AAMBIS-OWA Party-list



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AN ACT
PROMOTING THE SCIENTIFIC PROPAGATION, PROCESSING, UTILIZATION
AND DEVELOPMENT OF PHILIPPINE NATIVE ANIMALS, HEREBY CREATING
THE PHILIPPINE NATIVE ANIMAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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

Section 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "*Philippine Native Animal Development Act of 2016*."

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – The Constitution provides that the State shall develop a self-reliant and independent national economy effectively controlled by Filipinos, and shall provide for the preservation, conservation and development of comprehensive rural development and agrarian reform. 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, a comprehensive program for the promotion and development of native animals shall be established, creating what is to be known as the Philippine Native Animal Development Center.

Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a) "Philippine Native Animal Development Center" refers to the National Swine and Poultry Research Development Center of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), and those that will be created pursuant to this Act;
- b) "Smallholder farmer" refers to a farmer owning or cultivating five (5) hectares or less of farmland;
- c) "Native Animals" refer to animals found in one geographical location that developed unique physical characteristics, behavior, product attributes, adapted to the local environment and are products of selection with no infusion of exotic breed for at least five (5) generations. Examples include, but are not limited to, (native) chickens, goats, pigs, ducks, cattle, sheep and horses.

Sec. 4. Creation of the Philippine Native Animal Development Center. There is hereby created a Philippine Native Animal Development Center, hereinafter referred to as the PNADC, administratively attached to and under the supervision and control of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Sec. 5. Powers and Functions of the PNADC. The PNADC shall have the following powers and functions:

- a) Conserve, propagate, utilize and promote Philippine native animals such as, but not limited to, (native) chickens, goats, pigs, cattle, ducks, sheep and horses through the use of appropriate technology;
- b) Undertake research activities in all disciplines that lead to the improvement of the over-all productivity of Philippine native animals through collaborations with other government instrumentalities, State Colleges and Universities and other private research and development institutions;
- c) Enable the farmers, particularly smallholder farmers, to avail themselves of good quality native animal stocks at all times and at reasonable prices through an organized program of production, breeding, training and distribution;
- d) Undertake training programs for farmers, particularly smallholder farmers, designated to transfer technology on the proper reproduction and utilization of native animals;
- e) Encourage backyard development in rural areas by raising native animals so as to meet the nutrition needs of the smallholder farmers and their families and reduce dependence on commercialized or imported products;
- f) Increase the existing annual population growth of Philippine native animals to shorten the supply and demand gap in the native animal market; and
- g) Perform such other related functions which shall promote the propagation, processing, utilization, marketing and development of Philippine native animals.

Sec. 6. Philippine Native Animals Framework for Development. The PNADC, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture, Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), native animal growers' cooperatives and organizations, local government units, and the private sector, shall formulate a six-year Framework for Development to be validated and updated annually. Such Framework shall serve as guide to the formulation and implementation of plans, programs and projects for the propagation, processing, utilization and development of Philippine native animals, as envisioned in this Act. The Framework shall likewise provide for the following:

a. *Investment Promotion and Facilitation* - The DA shall develop programs establishing links between stakeholders in the native animal industry and Government Financial Institutions (GFIs) and other financial cooperatives. The DA shall likewise develop and implement programs that would establish reasonable and innovative investment incentives to attract more players in the native animal industry;

b. *Production Support and Extension* - The DA through the BAI, in consultation with DOST, state universities and colleges and other relevant government agencies shall establish programs which shall promote and provide adequate trainings on adapting technologies to smallholder farmers or

individuals engaged in the propagation, utilization, marketing, processing and distribution of native animals; strengthen native animal cooperatives and organizations involved in the sustainable and viable development of native animals; and afford opportunities for participation in international conventions, workshops and fora. The DA shall likewise make good breeds readily available to farmers and farmers' cooperatives to ensure high yield and good quality of native animals;

c. Research and Development – The DA, through the BAI, and the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) shall strengthen research collaboration among state universities and other research institutions for technical support in the areas of biotechnology and other fields that promote the development of the native animals sector. It shall strengthen the existing National Swine and Poultry Research Development Center to become the central coordinating center and gene pool for native animals. The DA, through the BAI and BAR, shall likewise establish sites and/or pilot farms for the propagation, processing, utilization and development of Philippine native animals. The same also covers the transfer and improvement of appropriate technology and techniques, which will be utilized in every phase of native animal propagation, marketing, processing and distribution. Particular emphasis shall be made in preserving the genetic make-up of these native animals and to ensure economic viability and acceptance of technology by farmers. The preserved genetics of native animals that are produced by the farmers will serve as a reservoir of diversity that may serve as a source of genetics for future development of new breeds that are Filipino-owned and will provide food security and national pride;

d. Market Promotion and Development – The DA shall strive to strengthen its various programs such as the Agri-Pinoy Livestock Program and other similar programs in the promotion and development of native animals. The DA, in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), shall link-up agribusiness cooperatives and organizations directly with consumers' cooperatives and organizations. This also includes exploring national and international markets and facilitating the participation of local growers and producers in local and international conferences, trade fairs, and exhibits;

e. Quality Assurance – To ensure health and proper handling, the DA, together with the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS), shall establish and enforce standards in propagating, processing, grading, sampling, tests and analysis, specifications, nomenclature, inspection, processing, storage, utilization and transportation of Philippine native animals; and

f. Infrastructure Development – The DA shall facilitate the provision and/or installment of needed propagation and post-harvest facilities, distribution and transport facilities, and other facilities in the propagation, processing, utilization and development of native animals. The existing facilities of NMIS, attached bureaus under the DA, and other agencies of the government, shall likewise be utilized for the said purposes. Assistance shall likewise be given to

qualified and viable farmers or cooperatives in the availment of soft loans or grants for the construction of native animal propagation and processing facilities.

Sec. 7. PNADC Advisory Board. The PNADC Advisory Board shall be composed of the following:

- a. Secretary of the DA as Chairperson;
- b. Director of the BAI as Vice-Chairperson;
- c. Assistant Secretary for Livestock as Chairperson of the Philippine Native Animals Development Program (PNAD);
- d. Director of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) as Head of the Native Animal Technical Working Group;
- e. Executive Director of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD);
- f. Representative from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
- g. Representative from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- h. Representative from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
- i. Two (2) representatives from UP Los Baños, College of Agriculture (Animal Science)
- j. Two (2) representatives from the appropriate state colleges and universities offering veterinary medicine and animal science courses (SCU); and
- k. Two (2) representatives from native animal farmers'/producers'/processors' associations.

Sec. 8. Functions of the PNADC Advisory Board. The PNADC Advisory Board shall perform the following functions:

- a) Formulate policies, programs and projects for the development of the Philippine native animals pursuant to the PNADC Framework for Development;
- b) Review and recommend the annual budget of the PNADC;
- c) Evaluate the implementation, efficiency and effectiveness of the program and projects of the PNADC;
- d) Recommend the establishment or abolition of Native Animal Regional Satellite Centers as may be deemed necessary;
- e) Promote the program and projects of the PNADC through information dissemination and marketing; and
- f) Perform such other related functions as may be necessary to carry out the purpose and provisions of this Act.

The board shall regularly meet twice in every fiscal year and may hold special meetings, whenever the need arises, to consider urgent matters upon the call of the Chairman or any of the seven (7) board members.

Sec. 9. Executive Director of the PNADC. The Executive Director of the PNADC shall be appointed by the Secretary of the DA.

The Executive Director of the PNADC shall perform the following functions:

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

Sec. 10. Creation of National Livestock and Poultry Genetics Board. The DA is also tasked to create the National Livestock and Poultry Genetics Board (NLPGB) composed of geneticists, animal breeders and consumer representatives that will establish medium and long term breeding objectives for all economically important domestic livestock and poultry in the Philippines. The Board will also establish guidelines and procedures for the recognition of breeds and establishment of breed registries.

Sec. 11. Creation of Native Animal Regional Satellite Centers. — There shall be created at least one (1) native animal satellite center in selected regions in the country, namely Native Animal Regional Satellite Center (hereinafter referred to as NARSC). The NARSC shall administer the programs, projects and policies of the PNADC in their respective locality to ensure the following:

- a) Implement various programs and projects of the PNADC in their respective regions;
- b) Recommend other relevant policies, programs and projects to the Executive Director of the PNADC; and
- c) Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Executive Director of the PNADC.

Sec. 12. Farmers' 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 Philippine native animals and dissemination of technology on native animals.

Sec. 13. Participation of Local Government Units. The local government units, in close partnership with the native animal regional satellite centers and various offices of the DA at the local level, shall implement a native animal propagation and distribution program within their respective areas in accordance with the national policy and program of the PNADC. The PNADC shall adopt a national distribution program to primarily benefit the smallholder farmers. Any income from the sale of native animals and their products shall be placed in a revolving fund to be used in the propagation, distribution and development of native animals.

Sec. 14. Use of Funds. Not more than thirty percent (30%) of funds allocated under this Act and in subsequent annual appropriations shall be used for personal services, and maintenance and operating expenses; thirty percent (30%) for research and development; and forty percent (40%) for native animals propagation and distribution.

Sec. 15. Annual Report. The PNADC through its Executive Director shall submit an annual report to the Office of the President, the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food, and the House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture and Food on the status of the implementation of this Act.

Sec. 16. Transfer of Philippine Native Animal Development Program to the PNADC. Upon approval of this Act, the Philippine Native Animal Development Program (PNAD) and other existing native animal programs and projects implemented by various agencies, which are supported by the DA shall be transferred to the PNADC.

Sec. 17. Separability Clause. - If any of the provisions of this Act is declare invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 18. Repealing Clause. - All laws or parts thereof, decrees, orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 19. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,