



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2556



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**Introduced by Representative Sharon S. Garin**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*Malunggay*, is a commonly cultivated plant in the Philippines and is known not just for its nutritional value but also for its medicinal herbal effects. *Malunggay* has a scientific name of *moringa oleifera*, and is known in English by the following common names: moringa, drumstick tree, horseradish tree, ben oil tree or benzoil tree.

*Malunggay* has been gaining international recognition as a "superfood" rich in nutrients and minerals as well as abundant in anti-oxidants. Filipinos consume the leaves, flowers and fruits (pods) of the *malunggay* as vegetables. *Malunggay* leaves contain protein, fiber, calcium, phosphorus, iron, beta-carotene, vitamins B1, B2, B3, and C. Regular consumption of *malunggay* can lead to healthy benefits like normalizing blood sugar levels, preventing malnutrition and micronutrient deficiency, and strengthening the immune system, to name a few. *Malunggay* has also long been used as an herbal medicine, although not all of its reported medicinal properties have been scientifically proven. One scientifically proven effect though, is that it increases milk flow in lactating mothers.

For all of its benefits, it is surprising that most people simply consider the *malunggay* an ordinary backyard plant, and isn't a staple in the Filipino's diet. Although recently, *malunggay* has been in the spotlight, judging from the number of products being marketed here, ranging from *malunggay* chips, *malunggay* powder, *malunggay* tea, *malunggay* capsules and even *malunggay* oil. With its growing popularity as a superfood and its increasing demands for exports, *malunggay* is clearly not a typical backyard plant anymore.

This bill would like to continue this trend, and provide for more institutional support to the *malunggay* industry; to establish it as an agri-business and develop products capable of not just local but also international distribution; to encourage its consumption among Filipinos to take advantage of its numerous health benefits; and to promote it as a viable crop for small and backyard farming for poverty alleviation.

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

  
**SHARON S. GARIN**  
AAMBIS-Owa Partylist



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OR REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
Third Regular Session

2556  
**HOUSE BILL NO.** \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by Representative Sharon S. Garin

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE MALUNGgay INDUSTRY,**  
**APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be it 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 ***Malunggay Industry***  
2 ***Development Act.***

3  
4       **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** *Malunggay or moringa oleifera* is a commonly  
5 cultivated plant in the Philippines and is known not just for its nutritional value but for  
6 its medicinal herbal effects. It has been gaining international recognition as a  
7 superfood due to its health benefits.

8       In line with this, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to continuously  
9 develop the *malunggay* industry as an agri-business by developing products not just  
10 for local but also for international distribution. It shall also be developed as a major  
11 source of pharmaceutical properties.

12       The State shall promote *malunggay* as a means of livelihood for poverty  
13 alleviation; maximize its utilization for health and nutrition; and discover its other  
14 potential co-products.

15       Toward this end, the State shall establish productivity improvement programs,  
16 provide the needed infrastructure support, enhance research and development on



1 product diversification, provide extension services, and provide financial assistance to  
2 farmers who are willing to cultivate *malunggay*.

3  
4 **SEC. 3. *Malunggay Industry Development Committee.*** To carry out the  
5 policies enunciated under this Act, there is hereby established a *Malunggay* Industry  
6 Development Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Committee. It shall be  
7 composed of the following:

- 8 (a) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Chairperson;  
9 (b) Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Vice-  
10 Chairperson;  
11 (c) Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);  
12 (d) Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH);  
13 (e) Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);  
14 (f) Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd);  
15 (g) One (1) representative from State Universities and Colleges (SUC);  
16 (h) One (1) representative from farmers' groups concerned with the *malunggay*  
17 industry; and  
18 (i) One (1) representative from the private sector organizations concerned with the  
19 *malunggay* industry.

20  
21 The nominees of the farmers' groups shall be validated by the Department of  
22 Agriculture (DA) and submitted to the President not later than thirty (30) days following  
23 the effectivity of this Act. The President shall appoint the representative from a list of  
24 nominees submitted by the DA.

25  
26 The government representatives in the Committee shall serve only during their  
27 respective terms in office. The representatives from the farmers' groups and the  
28 private sector shall each hold a term of three (3) years unless sooner removed for  
29 cause, and may be reappointed once: *Provided*, that any appointment to fill a vacancy  
30 in the Committee shall be only for the unexpired term.

1           The Committee shall coordinate with the various organizations that are known  
2 to be experts in the industry to organize the *Moringa* producers, processors, inputs  
3 producers and suppliers, domestic and international marketers, and traders as well as  
4 allied and related industries and aggrupation into an umbrella organization.

5  
6           The Committee may also call upon any department, bureau, office, agency, and  
7 instrumentality of the government for any assistance it may need in the discharge of  
8 its functions and responsibilities.

9  
10           **SEC. 4. *Role of Various Government Agencies.*** The Department of Trade  
11 and Industry (DTI) shall prioritize the development of National Product Standards for  
12 *Moringa* products and its synchronization and compliance with international product  
13 standards and equivalence. The Department of Finance (DOF), in collaboration with  
14 Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP),  
15 Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation (SBGFC) as well as Board of  
16 Investments (BOI), Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), shall provide the  
17 financing modalities and mechanisms for funding the loan requirements of the  
18 *moringa*-based industries.

19           **SEC. 5. *Malunggay Framework for Development.*** The Committee shall  
20 formulate necessary measures, programs and projects for the advancement and  
21 industry-wide development of *malunggay*, as follows:

- 22           (a)   ***Productivity Improvement Programs.*** To boost the production of  
23 *malunggay*, the following actions shall be made:  
24           1)   Identify the species, breeds or variants, if any, to be used and  
25 developed under this Act;  
26           2)   Appropriate land usage in suitable areas to increase and sustain  
27 its productivity and agricultural output;  
28           3)   Organize systematic programs that could improve production  
29 through its seeding, cultivation, harvesting and proper processing;  
30           4)   Create communal fields and gardens for those in the marginalized  
31 or rural areas to address their problems in food and health care; and  
32           5)   Initiate alternative livelihood projects for poverty alleviation.



1 (b) **Research and Development.** The Committee, in coordination with  
2 government research and development institutions, relevant SUCs, and the  
3 private sector, shall intensify research and studies on the propagation of  
4 *malunggay* to maximize and validate its nutritional and medicinal properties,  
5 and to expand its other possible uses. To attain these, the following actions  
6 shall be made:

7 (1) Survey *malunggay*'s potential in the international markets and  
8 prepare it as one of the Philippines' major commercial products;

9 (2) Develop the *malunggay* food industry by including the various  
10 parts of the plant in food preparation, various recipes and diet for health  
11 benefits;

12 (3) Explore the possibility of *malunggay* as a useful agricultural input  
13 (fertilizer) and animal feeds; and

14 (4) Invest in the biofuel potential of *malunggay* oil as a sustainable  
15 alternative to fossil fuel for the country's power generation and in the  
16 development of new products derived from it.

17 (c) **Market Promotion and Development.** The Committee, together with  
18 the concerned government agencies and industry stakeholders, shall endeavor  
19 to:

20 (1) Disseminate information regarding its uses and benefits through  
21 the use of advertising, mass media, and information technology;

22 (2) Share information on agricultural and manufacturing practice to  
23 determine market opportunities for potential stakeholders; and

24 (3) Collaborate with different organizations on the sharing of  
25 information and statistics on the *malunggay* industry.

26 (d) **Extension services.**

27 (1) Encourage and train *malunggay* farmers to utilize appropriate  
28 agricultural machineries and equipment necessary for the efficient  
29 planting, cultivation, care and maintenance, harvesting and handling of  
30 *malunggay* and its by-products;

31 (2) Ensure the availability of good seeds and materials to ensure high  
32 yield and good quality *malunggay*.

33  
34 All other programs that will help attain the objectives of this Act and those  
35 that will complement existing programs are also encouraged.

1           **SEC. 6. *Malunggay Industry Development Fund (MIDF).*** There is  
2 hereby established a *Malunggay Industry Development Fund (MIDF)* to be  
3 administered by the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of financing the  
4 growth and development of the *malunggay* industry. The amount necessary for  
5 the initial implementation of this act shall be charged against the current year's  
6 appropriation of the Department of Agriculture (DA). Thereafter, such sums as  
7 maybe necessary for the continued implementation of this act shall be included  
8 in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).  
9

10           **SEC. 7. *National Vegetable of the Philippines.*** *Malunggay* is hereby  
11 declared the national vegetable of the Philippines. The *malunggay* plant merits  
12 this recognition due to its enormous benefits where all parts of the *malunggay*  
13 tree are endowed with substantial nutritional and medicinal benefits.  
14

15           **SEC. 8. *National Malunggay Month.*** To recognize the importance of  
16 the *malunggay* plant to the health, social, agricultural, and environmental value,  
17 the month of November is hereby declared as the *National Malunggay Month*.  
18

19           **SEC. 9. *MALUNGgay INDUSTRY ROADMAP.*** Upon the effectivity of  
20 this Act, the Committee, in consultation with all the industry players, shall  
21 prepare the *malunggay* industry roadmap. The Committee may call upon any  
22 instrumentality of government for any assistance it may need in the discharge  
23 of its functions as well as in the implementation of the programs and projects.  
24

25           **SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*** Within thirty  
26 (30) days from the date of the constitution of the Committee, it shall formulate  
27 and promulgate the rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this  
28 Act.

29           **SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.*** If any provision of this Act is declared  
30 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration  
31 shall remain in full force and effect.  
32

1                   **SEC. 12. Repealing Clause.** All laws, executive and administrative  
2 orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or  
3 amended accordingly.

4                   **SEC. 13. Effectivity Clause.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
5 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.  
6

7                   *Approved,*