

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3908**



Introduced by **Representative LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA**
4TH DISTRICT, BULACAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Malunggay or Moringa Oleifera is one of the world's most useful crops and is a tropical tree with multifarious uses.

The numerous economic uses of Malunggay together with its easy propagation have raised the growing international interest. Presently, cultivation on large scale is seen in India, Israel, Thailand, South Asian Countries, Africa and Pacific Islands. In India, it occupies 40,000 hectares which account for more than 80% of the area and production in India¹. Its leaves contains the highest amount of calcium and phosphorous among vegetables. It offers great potential to those nutritionally at risk as it contains a good source of vitamin A, vitamins B & C, iron, and the sulphur-containing amino acids methionine cystine among others.

Moringa seeds also contains a high quality edible oil. Its roots are acrid, digestive, anthelmintic, constipating, anodyne, bitter alexipharmic stimulant and vesicant. They are useful in paralysis, inflammations, fever, cough, cold, bronchitis, pectoral diseases, epilepsy and hysteria.

This plant represents an environmentally-friendly alternative for the sustainable development of the food, health and technology industries. Studies indicate that it has various bioactive chemical compounds, is useful for human and animal consumption, for the treatment of some diseases and as raw material in the cosmetic industry².

An institutionalization of this malunggay industry is needed in order to ensure its sustainability. This bill engaged the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, farmer's cooperative or association, local government units and the private sector, to formulate a five-year Framework for Development that will guide in

¹ Underutilized and Underexploited Horticultural Crops, vol 4, 2008, K.V. Peter ed, p 111-130

² Moringa: potential uses in agriculture, industry and medicine. Revista Chapingo Serie Horticultura 22(2), 95-116, doi: 10.5154/r.rchsh.2015.07.018

the formulation and implementation of plans, programs and projects for the production, marketing, processing, and distribution of malunggay.

This bill tasked the Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to identify areas suitable for planting and propagation of malunggay within six months after the effectivity of this Act. The establishment of a fund known as the Malunggay Development Fund (MDF) will provide the funding requirements needed for its production, marketing, and processing of malunggay to be taken from the existing budget of the Department of Agriculture.

In view of the merits of this bill, approval in this regard is immediately sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Villarica' with a stylized flourish at the end.

REP. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. 3908

Introduced by **Representative LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA**
4TH DISTRICT, BULACAN

**AN ACT PROMOTING THE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, MARKETING AND
DISTRIBUTION OF MORINGA OLEIFERA OR MALUNGgay, MANDATING THE
CREATION OF A FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN, PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 “Malunggay Development Act of 2016”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to accelerate the growth and development of the rural areas, improve investment climate, competencies and efficiency of agribusiness, address the nutritional and health needs of our people, and promote the planting of malunggay as a source of livelihood, a means of attaining food security, and as an effective approach to poverty alleviation, through an all-out promotion of the production, processing, marketing, and distribution of malunggay in suitable areas of the country.

SECTION 3. Site Identification – The Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the municipal government concerned, shall identify the broad areas suitable for the planting and propagation of malunggay, within six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act: Provided, That such site identification shall be reviewed at appropriate intervals to ensure consistency with the agrarian reform program and the national land use policy.

SECTION 4. Malunggay Framework for Development – The Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, farmer's group, local government units, and the private sector, shall formulate a five-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 production, marketing, processing and distribution of Malunggay for food, medicinal, health and commercial needs, as envisioned in this Act. The Framework shall likewise provide for the following:

- a. The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Industry, shall link-up agribusiness cooperatives directly with consumers cooperatives, agro-processing companies, or exporters to provide marketing outlets for products with malunggay component;
- b. To ensure health and proper trading, the Department of Agriculture shall establish and enforce standards in grading, sampling and inspection, tests and analysis, specifications, nomenclature, units of measurement, code of practice and packaging, preservation, conservation, and transportation of malunggay;
- c. Technical support on research and extension, infrastructure development, financial and market information shall be provided by the Department of Agriculture, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Science and Technology, Cooperative Development Authority, state universities and colleges and other relevant government agencies;
- d. Access to post harvest facilities, storage and distribution/transport facilities of existing government agencies shall be facilitated. Assistance shall be given to qualified and viable farmers/growers cooperatives in the availment of soft loans or grants for the construction of post-harvest, processing and storage facilities;
- e. The Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the state universities and colleges, the Department of Trade and Industry, and farmers organization shall make good seeds and materials readily available to farmers/farmers' cooperatives to ensure high yield and good quality of malunggay; and
- f. The Department of Agriculture shall establish Malunggay Information Center in areas identified pursuant to Section 3 of this Act.

SECTION 5. Malunggay Development Fund (MDF) – To provide the funding requirements for the production, marketing and processing of malunggay, there is hereby created a Malunggay Development Fund (MDF) to be taken from the existing budget of the Department of Agriculture. Thereafter, the MDF shall be sourced from the amounts be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act in the year following its enactment into law. Other sources of funds, including but not limited to borrowings from local and international financial institutions, shall also be considered to further support the Fund.

SECTION 6. Inter-Agency Committee – A Committee, composed of a representative from the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Department of Finance, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Land Bank of the Philippines, the Development Bank of the Philippines, the Cooperative Development Authority, the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Department of Interior and Local Government and one (1) each from the small

farmers and commercial producers sectors to be designated by the Secretary of Agriculture, shall formulate and prescribe, after public hearing and publication as required by law, the implementing rules and regulations in order to carry out the provisions of this Act. The representatives from the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Industry shall be the chairman and the vice-chairman, respectively, of the Committee.

The representatives from the government agencies must have a rank of at least an Assistant Secretary.

The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture shall report to both Houses of Congress on the status of the implementation of this Act bi-annually.

SECTION 7. 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: Provided however, That nothing in this Act shall be construed or applied as amending the CARL and other laws on agrarian reform.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause – If any of the provisions of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereby not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. Effectivity Clause – This Act shall take effect immediately after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,