



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3089

Introduced by

**HON. ANNA MARIE VILLARAZA-SUAREZ and
HON. DAVID C. SUAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State recognizes the important role played by the coconut industry in our national economy as a major agricultural industry and a large contributor of foreign exchange earnings in the country.

Meanwhile, the Province of Quezon is considered as the top producing province amongst the 67 coconut producing provinces in the country. In fact, coconut production in Quezon was estimated at 3.12 million metric tons in the first quarter of 2017 alone. This represents a 78% share of the production of coconut in the CALABARZON with the highest hectarage planted to coconut with a total area of approximately 380,000 hectares. Coconut farming has always been a significant aspect of the Quezonians' way of life and culture. Moreover, Quezon Province is a core area for industry development due to continuing commitment of local executives and on top of market opportunities being the hub of the industry in Luzon.

Sadly, despite the significance of coconut production in Quezon, there are neither institutions nor facilities in the province established for generation of innovative and novel technologies related to coconut production, processing and enterprise development. Although the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) currently operates 3 research centers in Albay, Davao and Zamboanga, no such research

center is geographically accessible to farmers in the Province of Quezon and nearby provinces. Besides, the Albay research center is confined primarily to biotechnology researches. The establishment of a research facility devoted to coconut industry development in Quezon Province is of paramount importance since Quezon is strategically located within Luzon and accessible to major coconut regions such as MIMAROPA.

This bill seeks to revitalize coconut production and enterprise development through the establishment of a coconut industry research and development center in Quezon Province that is geographically accessible to coconut farmers and students of industry-related disciplines as well. The facility shall act as a hub for technology transfer and convergence among farmers, researchers and scientific experts. It shall bridge the gap between people and science-based innovations, on one hand, and practical knowledge and experience on the other. This will result to increased agricultural outputs which in turn will translate to higher incomes for coconut farmers and thereby diminish the incidence of poverty in coconut growing communities.

For the foregoing reasons, the immediate consideration and approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. ANNA MARIE VILLARAZA-SUAREZ
REPRESENTATIVE
ALONA PARTYLIST



HON. DAVID C. SUAREZ
REPRESENTATIVE
2ND DISTRICT, QUEZON



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3089

Introduced by

**HON. ANNA MARIE VILLARAZA-SUAREZ and
HON. DAVID C. SUAREZ**

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A COCONUT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF CATANAUAN, PROVINCE OF QUEZON,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Establishment of the Quezon Research Center - There is hereby established the 'Quezon Coconut Research Center', hereinafter referred to as the Center, which shall be under the management of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA). The Center shall be constructed and based in the Municipality of Catanauan, Province of Quezon, and shall serve as the learning hub of various state universities and colleges in Quezon and adjacent areas.

SECTION 2. Objectives - The Center shall have the following objectives and functions :

- a) To conduct applied research and verify generated technologies on coconut and all its phases of production, processing, management and utilization, towards maximizing its nutritive, health, economic and ecological potentials;

- b) To develop and produce experts, students, coconut farmers and farmers' organizations and cooperatives on various disciplines related to coconut production, utilization, marketing and agri-business;
- c) To provide a database of generated research information and library center of technologies in various facets of coconut farming, processing and coconut-based enterprise development;
- d) To design and implement coconut-based farming extension programs to transfer modern farming technology, good agricultural practices (GAP) to coconut farmers, students, the private sector and interested clients; and,
- e) To perform all acts necessary, expedient, suitable or proper for the furtherance or attainment of the Center's objectives.

SECTION 3. *Multi-Partite Cooperation Agreement* - The Office of the President through the PCA, the Department of Agriculture through the Bureau of Agricultural Research, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Philippine Council for Agricultural Research and Resources Development (PCARRD) of the Department of Science and Technology, shall enter into a multi-partite cooperation agreement to provide for the design of the facility, its operations and services, and shall prepare the organizational structure and personnel complement, the proposed furniture and fixtures, the equipment components of the Center and the estimated costs thereof.

SECTION 4. *Appropriations* - The amounts necessary for the establishment, operation and maintenance of the Center shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and subsequently thereafter.

SECTION 5. *Solicitation of Financial Assistance From Foreign Donors* - The Center may seek financial assistance from foreign donors such as but not limited to Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and similar institutions for the establishment and improvement of its infrastructures, laboratory facilities, field experiment stations development, and training of or scholarship for qualified personnel.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause* - If any part or section of this Act is declared unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the other parts or sections of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause* - All laws, decrees, rules and regulations and other issuances which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause* - The Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.