

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 856

Introduced by Hon. Aurelio "Oyie" Matias Umali

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine onion industry is one area of economic activity which encouraging potentials remain untapped. For many years, the onion industry has been neglected despite its remarkable contributions to the country's wealth and income. The Philippines presently provides for almost three-fourths (3/4) of the onion needs in Asia, and yet, the government continues to import from neighboring countries onion seeds or sets of bulb that are needed for growth and production.

The problem mainly lies in the lack of any comprehensive plan or program to develop the onion industry. The Department of Agriculture, for instance, has yet to show a determined effort to help improve the industry, especially in regard to introducing technology and scientific methods to ensure better yield. This lack of focus and direction results in high cost of production, unstable prices and poor utilization of built-in advantages.

This measure seeks to create the **Philippine Onion Research Institute** to be established in the municipality of Bongabon, Province of Nueva Ecija, which shall be tasked to promote and advance the scientific and technological expertise of the Filipinos regarding onion production in order to realize the optimal potential of this natural resource to, consequently, fully contribute to the country's economic progress and development.

This bill contributes to the promotion of science and technology, which are essential for national development and progress as provided in Section 10 of Article XIV in relation to Section 1 of Article XII of the Constitution.

The early approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

AURELIO "OYIE" MATIAS UMALI
Representative
3rd District, Nueva Ecija

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AN ACT
CREATING THE PHILIPPINE ONION RESEARCH INSTITUTE PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES AND PROVIDING FOR THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR ITS OPERATION

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

CHAPTER I
ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVES

SECTION 1. Name, Duration and Domicile. - There is hereby created the **"Philippine Onion Research Institute,"** hereinafter called **"PHILORINS,"** which shall be organized within sixty (60) days after the approval of this Act and shall have its main office in the Municipality of Bongabon, Nueva Ecija. This Corporation shall be under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture.

SECTION 2.. Purposes and Objectives. - The PHILORINS shall have the following purposes and objectives:

(a) To conduct research work for the onion industry in all its phases, for the purpose of introducing such practices or processes that will reduce the cost of production, increase and improve productivity and achieve greater efficiency in the industry;

(b) To improve existing methods of raising onions and onion production;

(c) To ensure a permanent, sufficient and balanced production of onions for local consumption and exportation;

(d) To establish and maintain a sustainable and balanced relation between production and consumption of onions, and such marketing conditions therefore, as will ensure stabilized prices at a level sufficient to cover the cost of production plus a reasonable profit; and

(e) To promote the effective merchandising of onions in the domestic and foreign markets so that those engaged in the onion industry will be placed on a more economic stability and security.

CHAPTER II
POWERS

SECTION 3. Specific and General Powers. - To carry out the purposes mentioned in the preceding section, the PHILORINS shall have the following powers:

(a) To establish, keep, maintain and operate one central experiment station to undertake extensive research in onion culture and production, including studies as the feasibility of merchandising onion farms, the control and eradication of pests, the selection of high yielding varieties of onions suited to the country's climatic conditions.

(b) To acquire, obtain and purchase such machinery, materials, equipment and supplies as may be necessary to execute such researches and experiment work successfully;

(c) To buy, sell, assign, operate, rent or lease any other equipment and materials for the production, manufacture, handling, transportation and warehousing of onions;

(d) To grant loans on reasonable terms to planters when it deems such loans advisable; and

(e) Generally, to exercise all powers necessary to carry out the purposes for which it is created, in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations.

CHAPTER III
GOVERNING BODY

SECTION 4. Composition and Appointment. - All corporate powers of the PHILORINS shall be vested in, and exercised by, a Board of Directors consisting of five (5) members to be appointed by the President of the Philippines; Provided, however, that three (3) of the members of the said board shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the

National Federation of Onion Planters. That Chairman of the Board shall be elected by the members from among themselves.

SECTION 5. Tenure and Compensation. - The members of the Board shall serve as designated by the President of the Philippines in their respective appointments for terms of two, four and six years, respectively, from the date they qualify, and assume office. Compensations of the members of the Board shall be determined in accordance with existing laws.

SECTION 6. Powers and Duties of the Board of Directors. - The Board shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) To prescribe rules and regulations governing the manners in which the general business of the corporation may be exercised;

(b) To appoint and fix the compensation of the General Manager, other officers of the corporation, with the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture. The Board, by a vote of a majority of all members, may, for just cause, suspend and remove the General Manager and other officers of the corporation;

(c) To approved the annual, and/or such supplemental budgets of the corporations which may be submitted to it by the General Manager from time to time; and

(d) To perform such other duties as may be assigned to it by the President of the Republic of the Philippines or by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

SECTION 7. Suspension and Removal of Directors. - Any member of Board of Directors may, for a cause, be suspended or removed by the President of the Philippines solely or upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture.

SECTION 8. Prohibition for Board Members. - No chairman or member of the Board of Directors of this corporation shall at the same time serve in other corporation or agency in any capacity whatsoever, unless authorized by existing laws.

CHAPTER IV
MANAGEMENT

SECTION 9. The General Manager. - The management of the corporation shall be vested in the General Manager.

SECTION 10. Powers and Duties of the General Manager. - The General Manager shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) To direct and manage the affairs and business of the corporation, on behalf of the Board of Directors, and subject to its control and supervision;

(b) To sit in all meetings of the Board and participate in the deliberations thereon, but without the right to vote;

(c) To submit within six (6) days after the close of each fiscal year an annual report, through the Board of Directors, to the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(d) To perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors from time to time.

CHAPTER V
CIVIL SERVICE LAW APPLICATION

SECTION 11. Application of Civil Service Law and Regulation. - All officers and employees of the corporation shall be subject to the Civil Service Law, rules and regulations, except those whose position may, upon recommendation of the Board, be declared by the President of the Philippines as policy-determining, primarily confidential or highly technical in nature.

SECTION 12. The financial transactions of the PHILORINS shall be audited in accordance with existing laws and administrative regulations. A report of audit for each fiscal year by the Auditor, through the Commission on Audit, to the Board of Directors, and copies thereof, shall be furnished the Secretary of Agriculture.

CHAPTER VI
FUNDING

SECTION 13. Funding. - To raise the necessary funds to carry out the provisions of this Act, an initial fund of FIFTY MILLION (P50,000.00) PESOS is hereby appropriated, to be charged against the appropriations intended for the Department of Agriculture under the current General Appropriations Act. Revolving funds shall be derived from the contributions of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and from sources of foreign origin.

CHAPTER VIII
LIQUIDATION

SECTION 14. Liquidation. - When its term or period of existence has expired in accordance with the provisions of this Act, it shall be liquidated in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations thereof.

SECTION 15. Reversion to General Funds. - All funds resulting from dissolution and liquidation of the corporation as herein provided shall ipso jure revert to the General Fund of the National Government.

SECION 16. Separability Clause. - If, for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of this Act shall be held to be unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 17. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved.