



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



Fifteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6462

Introduced by Honorable Ma. Georgina P. De Venecia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare Malunggay as the national vegetable of the Philippines and the month of November as the "*National Malunggay Month*."

Malunggay (*Moringa Oleifera*) is a fast growing tree in the Philippines. Known as a "miracle vegetable" or "nature's medicine cabinet" by scientists and health care workers from around the world, Malunggay is loaded with vitamins and minerals that can be an effective remedy against many kinds of ailments. It has been promoted by the World Health Organization (WHO) for the past 20 years as a low-cost health enhancer in poor countries around the globe.

From the root trunk and branches to the leaves, flowers, fruits and seeds, all parts of the Malunggay tree are usable for nutritional and medicinal purposes. According to the Biotechnology Program Office of the Department of Agriculture, the Malunggay has been found by biochemists and molecular anthropologists to be rich in vitamins C and A, iron, and high density lipoprotein or good cholesterol. It is also considered as an effective cure for illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension, inflammations, infections, cancer and aging issues.

The Malunggay leaves alone contain a powerhouse of nutritional value: seven times the vitamin C in oranges, four times the calcium in milk, four times the vitamin A in carrots, two times the protein in milk and three times the potassium in bananas. Malunggay contains more than 90 nutrients and 46 types of antioxidants. It has 18 amino acids, plenty of omega 3 oils and chlorophyll, plus 45 compounds with antioxidant properties and 36 anti-inflammatory properties.

Malunggay trees can also help stabilize the soil and contribute to the fight against deforestation. Because of its enormous benefits, planting Malunggay plants is encouraged by the Department of Agriculture. Our country is presently expanding the local market for Malunggay and its products with the aim of enhancing the agribusiness potentials of various crops as part of the government's poverty-alleviation and health care programs.

For the past years, Malunggay in the Philippines has been considered as a backyard tree. Now we can say that Malunggay can save lives, increase incomes, generate millions of jobs, utilize vast tracts of idle agricultural lands, make the Philippines globally competitive, impact local and international market, and help attain socioeconomic equity. Malunggay tree is one of the most important plants that deserve national and international promotion and support due to the many bio-medical endowment and numerous socio-economic benefits that can be derived from it.

In line with the foregoing considerations, Malunggay deserves recognition by declaring it as the national vegetable of the Philippines and at the same time declaring the month of November of every year as the "*National Malunggay Month.*"

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


MA. GEORGINA P. DE VENECIA



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AN ACT
DECLARING MALUNGgay (MORINGA OLEIFERA) AS THE
NATIONAL VEGETABLE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE MONTH OF
NOVEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS THE "NATIONAL MALUNGgay
MONTH."

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

SECTION 1. Malunggay (*Moringa Oleifera*) is hereby declared as the national vegetable of the Philippines and the month of November of every year as the "*National Malunggay Month*."

SEC. 2. Within sixty (60) days upon the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Education, Secretary of Health and Chairman of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, promulgate the rules and regulation necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,