

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

Seventeenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6555**



Introduced by Representative Sharon S. Garin

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.

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 forgoing, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


SHARON S. GARIN
AAMBIS-Owa Partylist

1 Republic of the Philippines
2 HOUSE OR REPRESENTATIVES
3 Quezon City, Metro Manila

4
5 Seventeenth Congress
6 Second Regular Session

7
8 HOUSE BILL NO. **6555**
9

10 Introduced by Representative Sharon S. Garin
11
12

13 AN ACT
14 ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE MALUNGGAY INDUSTRY,
15 APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES
16

17 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
18 *assembled:*
19

20 SECTION 1. *Title* – This act shall be known as the "*Malunggay Development Act.*"

21 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
22 continuously develop the *malunggay* industry as an agri-business and a major source of
23 pharmaceutical properties through improvement of research and development; to promote it
24 as a means of livelihood for poverty alleviation, and; to maximize its utilization for health
25 and nutrition, and discover its other potential co-products.

26 SEC. 3. *Malunggay Development Committee* – The Malunggay Development
27 Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Committee, is hereby constituted and shall be
28 composed of the following:

- 29 a. Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) as Chairman;
30 b. Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
31 c. Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
32 d. Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH);
33 e. Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);

- f. One (1) representative from State Universities and Colleges;
- g. One (1) representative from farmers group concerned with the *malunggay* industry;
- h. One (1) representative from the private sector, or organizations concerned with the *malunggay* industry;

SEC. 4. Development of the Malunggay Industry – The Committee shall formulate necessary measures, programs and projects for the advancement and industry-wide development of *malunggay*, as follows:

Industry-Wide Development

- a. Identify the exact species, sub-species, breeds, or variants, if any, of *malunggay* to be used and developed through this act;
- b. Appropriate land usage for *malunggay* to increase and sustain its productivity and agricultural output;
- c. Organize systematic programs that could improve production of *malunggay* through its seeding, cultivation, harvesting and proper processing;
- d. Augment and initiate intensive scientific research and studies over the propagation of *malunggay* to maximize and verify its nutritional and medicinal properties, and to diversify its other possible uses;
- e. Disseminate information regarding *malunggay's* uses and benefits, along with its products to stir awareness through the public through the use of advertising, mass media, and information technology;
- f. Share information on agricultural and manufacturing practice to determine market opportunities for potential stakeholders;
- g. Collaborate with different organizations whose incorporators are concerned with promotion of information and statistics on *malunggay* industry;

- h. Explore possibility of *malunggay* as a useful agricultural input (fertilizer) and animal feed to the farming sector, which can lessen their expenses over commercialized ones;
- i. Survey *malunggay*'s potential as an organic wonder in the international markets and prepare it as one of the Philippines' major commercial products;
- j. Develop the *malunggay* food industry and incorporate its different parts through food preparation, various recipes and diet because of its healthy contribution to the people's well-being;
- k. Create *malunggay* communal fields and gardens for those in the marginalized or rural areas as to address their problems in food and health care and to somehow attain self-sufficiency in the rising needs of today's populace;
- l. Initiate alternative livelihood projects involving *malunggay* for poverty alleviation and development of new products derived from them;
- m. Invest in the biofuel potential of *malunggay* oil as a sustainable alternative to fossil fuel for the country's power generation.

SEC. 5. *National Malunggay Month* – To recognize and to provide importance to the health, social, agricultural, and environmental value of the *malunggay* plant, the month of November will be declared as the *National Malunggay Month*.

SEC. 6. *Malunggay Development Fund (MDF)* – To provide for the funding requirements for the production, marketing, and processing of *malunggay*, there is hereby created a Malunggay Development Fund (MDF), with an initial amount of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) 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.

1 **SEC 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)*** – The Committee shall, within
2 ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the rules and regulations for its
3 effective implementation.

4 **SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause*** – All laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations, or any
5 part thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified
6 accordingly.

7 **SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication in any newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

9 *Approved,*