

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

17th CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7403



Introduced by **REP. EVELINA G. ESCUDERO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Sorsogon, being the largest supplier of pili in Bicol region, accounts for more than half of the country's total pili production at 4,052 metric tons in 2015. Value Chain Analysis (VCA) conducted by the local and national level planning (I-PLAN) shows that most of the big processors in the region get their supply of kernel from Sorsogon because of its big volume of production. ^[1]

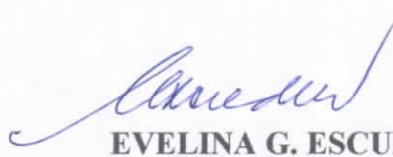
Aside from the kernel, pili's by-products like the shell, formerly recycled as charcoal is now used in making fashion accessories. Meanwhile, its pulp is used to make the popular elemi essential oil. As they begin to be emerging commodities and start to get recognized in the global market, pili remains to be one of the high-value crops in Bicol. Even the tree's wood may be carved as furniture or décor at home.

Because all pili's parts have immense use, the pili tree is fast gaining fame as the "tree of life", next to the coconut tree. ^[2]

As an endemic tree found in the Bicol region and a commercial market unique only in the country, the help and support from the government through research, technology, and marketing will make pili a highly marketable product in the global scene, hence its income generating potential.

The bill, seeking to recognize the province of Sorsogon as the Pili Capital of the Philippines, will garner additional government support and budget allocation not only to maintain, promote, and protect the country's pili industry, but most importantly, to ensure its sustainability for the benefit of the farmers and other stakeholders.

Therefore, the early recognition and approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


EVELINA G. ESCUDERO

[1] Baleza, Annielyn. DA-PRDP RPCO V- <http://bicol.da.gov.ph/index.php/news/3284-sorsogon-sees-pili-industry-growth-with-da-advisory-board-s-approval-of-pili-enterprise>

[2] Department of Environment and Natural Resources - <http://denr.gov.ph/news-and-features/latest-news/582-pili-the-next-tree-of-life.html>

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AN ACT
DEVELOPING THE PILI INDUSTRY, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE PILI
SUBSIDY FUND AND THE PILI RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER, AND
DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON AS THE PILI CAPITAL OF THE
PHILIPPINES

Be 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 “Pili Industry Development Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote and support the viable *Pili* industry in the country, particularly its largest producer, the Province of Sorsogon. Towards this end, the country shall maintain and protect the *Pili* industry to ensure its sustainability for the benefits of the farmers and other stakeholders. Hence, secure a source of livelihood and industry, as well as to provide an avenue for employment generation.

SEC. 3. Creation of the Pili Research and Development Center - Within a year from the approval of this Act, there shall be created the *Pili* Research and Development Center in Sorsogon which shall be attached to the Sorsogon State College in Sorsogon City.

SEC. 4. Functions of the Pili Research and Development Center – The *Pili* Research and Development Center shall perform the following functions and duties:

- a. Undertake and conduct researches and technical studies on the development, production, management, and marketing of *pili* nuts and its by-products;
- b. Provide technical assistance and support to *pili* farmers and other stakeholders in the Bicol Region;
- c. Develop appropriate technologies beneficial to the *pili* industry;
- d. Train faculty members and other research personnel who will undertake research and development work on *pili*;
- e. Publish research studies, papers, articles, and other works or writings relating to *pili* on a regular basis with the end goal of benefitting *pili* farmers and other stakeholders nationwide;

- f. Coordinate with the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to consolidate all policies, programs, and projects on *pili* research and development.
- g. Such other functions and duties necessary or incidental to the promotion and development of the *pili* industry.

SEC. 5. *Pili Subsidy Fund* – There is hereby created a *Pili Subsidy Fund*, which shall be used to financially support the *Pili* industry. The fund shall be directly and exclusively used for the following:

- a) *Pili* tree planting and cultivation; and
- b) Skills training and capital development for the *pili* industry.

SEC. 6. *Pili Capital of the Philippines* – The province of Sorsogon is hereby declared, or granted the official designation as the *Pili Capital* of the Philippines.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* - The DA and DENR in collaboration with DTI, DOST, and the Sorsogon State College, shall issue and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations* - For the effective implementation of this Act, the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Million Pesos (PhP250,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated from the current and annual budgetary allocations of the DA and DENR. Fifty percent of which shall serve as the initial amount for the *Pili Subsidy Fund* under Section 6 of this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual budget of the DA and DENR under the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause* – All laws and parts thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,