



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



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

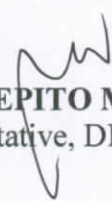
House Bill No. 8708

Introduced by **DIWA Party-list Representative Pepito M. Pico**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It has been called a "miracle vegetable" and a "super food", but for many Filipinos malunggay -- internationally known as moringa -- is simply a common backyard plant. However, each year seems to bring about a newly discovered potential use for malunggay, from promoting lactation, to alleviation of gout, to the reduction of blood glucose for diabetics. Even on its own, malunggay is packed with nutrition and vitamins, its leaves containing the likes of calcium, magnesium, protein, potassium, chlorophyll, polyphenol, vitamins C, A, B and B2, and the amino acids, arginine and histidine.¹

While at present it is an underutilized resource in our country, it is clear that it would redound to the benefit of the Filipino people if the plant and its industry will be given more attention and support, not only on the health benefits of malunggay, but most importantly the economic gains. It is clear that as more and more uses of malunggay are discovered (the first international symposium on the plant and its benefits was held last year, here in Manila) the demand for it will definitely increase. This bill -- a refiling of House Bill 4173 filed by former DIWA Party-list Representative Emmeline Villar and as a counterpart of Senate Bill No. 319 with the support of its author, Senator Cynthia Villar-- aims to promote the development of the malunggay industry; to create the malunggay development fund; as well as to launch a national malunggay month.


PEPITO M. PICO
Representative, DIWA Party-list

¹ <http://entertainment.inquirer.net/174969/malunggay-as-a-superfood>



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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE MALUNGgay INDUSTRY,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Title - This act shall be known as the "Malunggay Development Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy - It is hereby declared the policy of the State: to continuously develop the promising malunggay industry as an agribusiness and a major source of pharmaceutic properties through improvement of research and development; to promote it as a means of livelihood for poverty alleviation; to maximize its utilization for health and nutrition; and discover its other potential co-products.

SECTION 3. Development of the Malunggay Industry - The Department of Agriculture (DA), in consultation with the Department of Science and Technology, state universities and colleges, farmer groups, local government units, and the private sector, shall formulate necessary measures, programs and projects for the advancement and industry-wide development of malunggay, as follows:

Industry-Wide Development

- a. Appropriate land usage for malunggay to increase and sustain its productivity and agricultural output.
- b. Organize systematic programs that could improve production of malunggay through its seeding, cultivation, harvesting, and proper processing.
- c. Augment and initiate intensive scientific research and studies over the propagation of moringa oleifera to maximize and verify its nutritional and medicinal properties, and to diversify its other possible uses.

- d. 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.
- e. Share information on agricultural and manufacturing practice to determine market opportunities for potential stakeholders.
- f. Collaborate with different organizations whose incorporators are concerned with promotion of information and statistics on malunggay industry.
- g. 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.
- h. Survey malunggay's potential as an organic wonder in the international markets and prepare it as one of Philippines' major commercial products.
- i. 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.
- j. 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.
- k. Initiate alternative livelihood projects involving malunggay for poverty alleviation and development of new products derived from them.
- l. Invest in the biofuel potential of malunggay oil as a sustainable alternative to fossil fuel for the country's power generation.

SECTION 4. National Malunggay Month - In recognition and providing 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.

SECTION 5. Malunggay Development Fund (MDF) - To provide for the funding requirements for the production, marketing, and processing of malunggay, it 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.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause - All laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. Effectivity Clause - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,