

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 9555

Introduced by Representative Mercedes “Didi” C. Cagas

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PALM OIL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN THE
PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL SUR, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Philippine oil palm has become a promising commodity for the agribusiness industry as the demand for palm oil and its by-products has drastically increased both in the domestic and international market. The strong demand for palm oil and its by-products has caught the interest of investors especially in Mindanao where, historically and geographically, plantation agriculture dominates not only in the private sector but also in the government sector.

However, there are perceived constraints to the growth of the industry including the lack of production technologies and marketing strategies. Establishing a Palm Oil Research and Development Center in the Province of Davao Del Sur will not only address these deficiencies but will also generate employment and enhance livelihood activities in the Province. This representation believes that investing in the research and development for the gainful production, processing and marketing of oil palm products and by-products will open opportunities for small farmers and agri-business owners in the Province and will ensure food security, increased income, rural employment and sustainable oil palm development.

It is for the foregoing reason that the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


MERCEDES “DIDI” C. CAGAS

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

SECTION 1. *Establishment.* – There shall be established, under the control and supervision of the Department of Agriculture, a Palm Oil Research and Development Center in the Province of Davao Del Sur which shall harness the potential of oil palm farming in the Province.

SEC. 2. *Powers and Functions.* – The Palm Oil Research and Development Center in the Province of Davao Del Sur shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Initiate and administer a multi-disciplinary research program to generate high yielding oil palm hybrids, establish oil palm plant nursery, develop innovative production and processing technologies, including the utilization of palm oil and palm oil by-products;
- (b) Empower palm oil farmers, palm oil millers, and other stakeholders on the modern methods in the production and processing of palm oil and palm oil by-products;
- (c) Promote and provide support in the establishment of value-added palm oil enterprises to generate livelihood opportunities to small palm oil producers;
- (d) Provide support to palm oil farmers, palm oil millers and other stakeholders in marketing palm oil and palm oil by-products; and
- (e) Promote cooperative development among small palm oil farmers by providing them access to oil palm planting materials, technological knowledge, and entrepreneurial competency.

SEC. 3. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the current appropriations for the Department of Agriculture. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continuous operation and maintenance of the Palm Oil Research and Development Center shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,