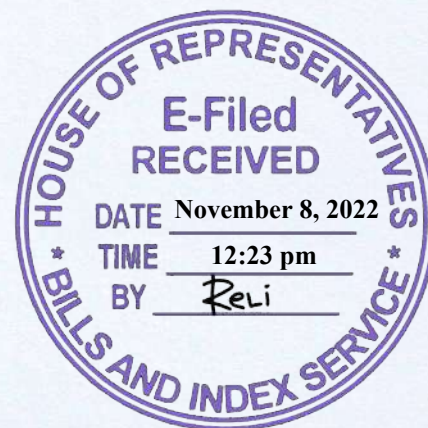


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5919



Introduced by Representative Rex Gatchalian

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT IN THE
PHILIPPINES, CREATING THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CENTER
(BIDC), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Bamboo is a vital commodity in the Philippines. Its planting and usage help in the mitigation of climate change and in disaster management, given its carbon capture and cheaper reforestation cost. Moreover, bamboo can easily be converted into a cash crop for farmers and community-based forest management agreement holders.

In 2010, Executive Order No. 879 was issued creating the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council (PBIDC) to promote the Bamboo Industry Development Program and to provide the overall policy and program directions of the program for all stakeholders. It mandates the use of 20% of bamboo for reforestation, 25% for the desk requirements of all public elementary and high schools in the country, strengthening of the bamboo industry, and intensification of research on bamboo production and utilization.

There is currently a high demand for bamboo as a raw material for furniture and handicrafts, among others, due to the diminishing supply of wood. This has led to the excessive harvesting of bamboo which has caused the deterioration of its quality and quantity. This bill aims to institutionalize the PBIDC and create its secretariat, the Bamboo Industry Development Center to formulate a holistic National Bamboo Industry Development Program which covers research, production,

processing, marketing, consumption, capacity building, and regulation of the cultivation of bamboo and promote investments in the bamboo industry.

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



HON. REX GATCHALIAN
Representative
1st District, Valenzuela City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5919

Introduced by Representative Rex Gatchalian

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT IN THE
PHILIPPINES, CREATING THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CENTER
(BIDC), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1.** *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Bamboo
2 Industry Development Act of 2022."

3
4 **SEC. 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* — The State shall provide for a self-reliant and
5 independent economy for its people. It shall support indigenous, scientific and
6 technological capabilities, and skills. It shall establish a program for sustainable
7 consumption, production, propagation and promotion of bamboo as furniture,
8 construction and design materials, food and other uses. It shall promote the bamboo
9 industry for poverty reduction, inclusive growth, environmental conservation and
10 protection, agricultural productivity enhancement and climate change mitigation
11 and adaptation.

12
13 **SEC. 3.** *Definition of Terms.* — As used in this Act:

14 a) *Bamboo* refers to a tropical or semi-tropical fast-growing grass usually
15 having hollow culms and lignocellulose matrix;

16 b) *Bamboo Backyard Farming* refers to those whose plantation and operations
17 are basically in the house backyard, with the household members as workers. The
18 majority of bamboo processing enterprises in the Philippines belong to this category;

19 c) *Bamboo Industry* refers to a sector with very high potential contribution in
20 the socio-economic development and environmental protection of the country. The
21 sector may still be classified as essentially agricultural considering that majority of

1 its market and supply is essentially for agricultural requirements such as fish pens,
2 banana props and other low value applications like scaffoldings, and fences;

3 d) *Bamboo Industry Development Roadmap* shall provide specific programs
4 and projects, including the timeline for the propagation, development and
5 management, processing, utilization, business development, and commercialization
6 of the Philippine bamboo and bamboo products. It shall contain a comprehensive
7 national industrial strategy for the Philippine bamboo industry;

8 e) *Bamboo Processing* refers to conversion of bamboo for various products and
9 applications including walls, panels, trusses, handicraft, consumer products (tooth
10 brush, tissues, toothpicks, and chopsticks among others) and novelty products
11 (furniture, handicraft, and decors), focused on the possible use of bamboo as
12 substitutes for wood for various applications (plywood, composites, pulp and paper,
13 bamboo arts, and other architectural applications); and

14 f) *Bamboo Stand* refers to an aggregate of clumps for plantation occupying a
15 specific area and sufficiently uniform in composition (species), age, spacing, and
16 condition as to be distinguished from the natural and/or existing bamboo stands
17 (with unknown clump age). The latter stands have irregular spacing and species
18 composition not necessarily uniform and the clumps are randomly and widely
19 distributed.

20
21 **SEC. 4. Objectives.** — This Act aims to make the Philippine bamboo industry
22 competitive in the local and international markets while providing opportunities for
23 local employment and establishing bamboo-based community enterprises by:

24 a) Promoting the integrated and holistic development of the bamboo industry
25 in various aspects of research, production, processing, marketing, consumption,
26 capacity building, and regulation;

27 b) Ensuring that the bamboo industry has sufficient supply of quality raw
28 materials through the establishment and management of bamboo nurseries and
29 plantations;

30 c) Ensuring that relevant and accurate data on the bamboo industry are
31 collated and published by the Center created under Section 7 of this Act, in
32 cooperation with various government agencies, private entities and other relevant
33 sources, to aid in business decisions related to the industry;

34 d) Promoting investments in the bamboo industry by providing substantial
35 and attractive incentives to investors;

36 e) Providing skilled labor and manpower through continuous relevant capacity

1 building;

2 f) Ensuring the provision of locally manufactured machines with improved
3 capacity, efficiency, and quality at competitive costs;

4 g) Improving bamboo industry research and development to discover new
5 products and technologies, and advance market access for Philippine bamboo and
6 bamboo products locally and internationally;

7 h) Providing access to markets of bamboo products locally and internationally
8 through aggressive trade promotions; and

9 i) Ensuring sustainable resources in the implementation of the bamboo
10 industry development program.

11
12 **SEC. 5.** *Composition of the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council.*

13 —The composition of the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council (PBIDC),
14 as provided for under Executive Order No. 879, is hereby amended as follows:

15 a) Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) as Chair;

16 b) Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
17 or his/her duly appointed representative, who has sufficient expertise on the
18 Philippine bamboo industry;

19 c) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) or his/her duly appointed
20 representative, who shall come from the Bureau of DA-Agricultural Research (DA-
21 BAR);

22 d) Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) or his/her
23 duly appointed representative, who shall come from the DOST— Forest Products
24 Research and Development Institute (DOST-FPRDI);

25 e) Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd) or his/her duly
26 appointed representative;

27 f) Executive Director of the Center;

28 g) A representative from the Department of Interior and Local Government
29 (DILG);

30 h) One (1) representative each from bamboo farmers, bamboo manufacturers,
31 16 and bamboo processors associations;

32 i) Two (2) representatives from Non-Governmental Organizations involved in
33 the agricultural sector; and

34 j) One (1) representative from the private sector involved in the bamboo
35 industry.

36 The DTI secretary may designate the Undersecretary for Regional Operations

1 Group (DTI-ROG) as his/her alternate and shall have the same powers as his/her
2 principal and his/her acts shall be considered the acts of his/her principal.

3 The representatives from the private sector, bamboo farmers, bamboo
4 manufacturers, bamboo processors associations, and non-governmental
5 associations

6 shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines from the list of
7 nominees submitted by the DTI Secretary. The DTI Secretary shall choose the
8 nominees from the respective lists submitted by the different organizations and
9 associations. They shall serve for a term of three (3) years, and may be re-appointed
10 once.

11 The Council shall meet quarterly and may hold special meetings whenever the
12 need arises to consider urgent matters upon the call of the Chair or any of the council
13 members.

14 The Council shall continue to provide the overall policy and program
15 directions of the bamboo industry, coordinate activities of the various government
16 agencies and instrumentalities, and ensure the implementation, accomplishment,
17 and periodic review of the Bamboo Industry Development Roadmap.

18 The Council shall be administratively attached to the DTI.

19
20 **SEC. 6. Powers and Functions of the Council.** — The Council shall have the
21 following powers and functions, among others:

- 22 a) Formulate the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Roadmap;
23 b) Identify specific programs and projects in support of, and in line with the
24 Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Roadmap;
25 c) Identify sources of financing to expand bamboo industry development;
26 d) Submit annual reports to the Office of the President, the Senate Committee
27 on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship, and the House of Representatives
28 Committee on Trade and Industry on the status of the implementation of the
29 Roadmap and the bamboo industry development in the country; and
30 e) Promulgate such rules and regulations and exercise such other powers and
31 functions as may be necessary to carry out effectively the attainment of the purposes
32 and objectives of this Act.

33
34 **SEC. 7. Bamboo Industry Development Center (BIDC).** — The Bamboo Industry
35 Development Center, hereinafter referred to as the Center, shall be created to serve
36 as the secretariat of the Council to be headed by an Executive Director.

1 The Center shall consist of divisions for (1) research and development, (2)
2 trade promotion and education, (3) networking and linkages, (4) internal
3 administration, and such other purposes deemed necessary by the Council. The
4 composition and staffing of the divisions shall be prepared by the Executive Director
5 and approved by the Council.

6 The organizational structure, staffing pattern and compensation schedule of
7 the Center shall be drawn up in accordance with the Civil Service Commission (CSC)
8 law, rules and regulations. Government agencies represented in the Council shall
9 provide additional administrative and technical staff support upon request by the
10 Council.

11 The Center shall have the following powers, functions and duties:

12 a) Promote and encourage the establishment and management of bamboo
13 nurseries and bamboo plantations for commercialization, in coordination with DENR
14 and DA;

15 b) Coordinate and partner with DOST-FPRDI for continuous research and
16 development to advance sustainable bamboo industry development practices;

17 c) Work with the Council and coordinate with the DENR and DOST-FPRDI in
18 formulating a holistic National Bamboo Industry Development Program;

19 d) Work to establish and create processing facilities that would accelerate the
20 production and commercialization of bamboo and various bamboo products;

21 e) Promote the establishment and creation of bamboo farm tourism camps in
22 coordination with the Department of Tourism;

23 f) Promote the commercialization and market access of appropriate, innovative
24 and viable bamboo industry development technologies and products;

25 g) Coordinate and partner with other government agencies in the
26 implementation of bamboo industry development programs and projects;

27 h) Monitor and evaluate the performance of the bamboo industry, and the
28 bamboo development programs and projects;

29 i) Coordinate and partner with the private sector, people's organizations and
30 nongovernmental organizations, and State Colleges and Universities in providing
31 assistance on matters pertaining to bamboo industry development;

32 j) Accept grants, donations and contributions from local and international
33 donors and such similar sources of funds for the implementation of this Act, subject
34 to the usual budget, accounting and auditing rules and regulations;

1 k) Assist the Council, in cooperation with other appropriate government
2 agencies, in conducting a periodic review of the Philippine Bamboo Industry
3 Development Roadmap;

4 l) Conduct capability-building initiatives for farmers, farm workers,
5 processors, designers, and other stakeholders in the bamboo industry;

6 m) Gather data and create an information system related to bamboo, including
7 but not limited to, plantations, population, species, workers and beneficiaries,
8 investors, product demands and supplies, and costs and benefits for market
9 research;

10 n) Supervise the implementation of the plans and programs of the Council;

11 o) Manage and administer the projects approved by the Council under this
12 Act; and

13 p) Submit periodic reports to the Council on the progress and accomplishment
14 of bamboo industry programs and projects.

15
16 **SEC. 8.** *The Executive Director of the Center.* - The Executive Director shall be
17 appointed on a permanent capacity by the President of the Republic Philippines from
18 the list of nominees submitted by the DTI Secretary. He/she shall be a citizen and
19 resident of the Philippines and must possess executive and management experience
20 of at least three (3) years and with considerable knowledge in bamboo industry
21 development.

22 The Executive Director, in addition to his/her duties in the Center, shall have
23 the following powers and functions:

24 a) Assist the Council in the performance of its tasks;

25 b) Provide technical and administrative support to the Council;

26 c) Oversee the day-to-day operations of the Center; and

27 d) Perform such other functions, duties and responsibilities as may be
28 necessary to implement this Act.

29
30 **SEC. 9.** *Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Bamboo*
31 *for Commercialization.* — In addition to its mandate, under the Bamboo Plantation
32 Development Program (BPDP), the DENR shall ensure the development and
33 expansion of nurseries and plantations of bamboo for commercialization and
34 industrial purposes,

1 while taking into consideration the ecological balance in areas identified for
2 plantation and propagation. It shall continue to conduct research and development
3 activities for production or propagation of bamboo.

4
5 **SEC. 10.** *Department of Science and Technology for Research and Development*

6 — The DOST-FPRDI shall be the main research and development arm for bamboo
7 utilization of the Council. It shall work closely in coordination with the Center and
8 other government agencies such as the DA-BAR to innovate and advance sustainable
9 bamboo industry development practices.

10
11 **SEC. 11.** *Role of the Local Government Units.* — Local Government Units in

12 cooperation with the DENR, DTI and the DOST-FPRDI, and in consultation with DA
13 and the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) when necessary, shall
14 regularly conduct surveys of existing bamboo stands, nurseries and plantations in
15 their respective localities, and shall strengthen the local bamboo industry by
16 promoting bamboo enterprises in their respective localities.

17
18 **SEC. 12.** *Provision of Incentives to Investors in Nursery and Plantation*
19 *Development and Bamboo Enterprises.* — The following incentives shall be provided
20 to investors in plantation development and bamboo processing factories:

21 a) Nursery and plantation owners shall be exempt from the payment of
22 government share for the use of public lands for commercial bamboo plantation for
23 the first ten (10) years or when the plantation owner starts to harvest the nursery or
24 plantation subject to existing tenurial agreement with concerned government
25 agencies;

26 b) Plantation owners in public lands shall be exempt from the payment of
27 forest charges that may be imposed by national government and other fees or taxes
28 imposed by local government units;

29 c) Bamboo plantations shall be accepted as among the collaterals for loans in
30 government-owned or controlled banks, subject to its rules and regulations;

31 d) Bamboo plantation developers and bamboo processors shall be given
32 priority to access credit assistance and guarantee schemes being granted by
33 government-owned, controlled and/ or supported financial institutions;

34 e) Bamboo plantations shall not require a cutting permit for harvesting nor
35 shall its produce need a transport permit for transporting: *Provided, That such*

1 plantation is registered with the Community Environment and Natural Resources
2 Office (CENRO) of the DENR;

3 f) Bamboo plantations and plantation development equipment shall be
4 covered by the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC);

5 g) For tenured bamboo plantation owners, upon the premature termination of
6 the tenurial agreement with no fault of the holder, all capital improvements,
7 depreciable permanent and semi-permanent improvements such as roads, buildings,
8 nurseries including the planted and standing bamboo and other intercrops,
9 introduced and retained in the area, shall be evaluated and the holder shall be
10 entitled to a fair compensation thereof, the amount of which shall be mutually agreed
11 upon by both the DENR and the tenure-holder and in case of disagreement between
12 them, by arbitration through a mutually acceptable and impartial third party
13 adjudicator through the DENR; and

14 h) The export of bamboo poles shall be regulated by the Council while other
15 bamboo products, may be exported without restrictions in volume.

16
17 **SEC. 13. Appropriations.** — The sum of One Hundred Million Pesos
18 (P100,000,000.00) to be sourced from the unexpended contingency fund of the Office
19 of the President, the existing budget for bamboo industry development under the
20 DTI, the existing budget allocation for DENR-FPRID's bamboo related research and
21 development, and the existing budget allocation for DENR's BPDP, are hereby
22 appropriated for the initial budgetary requirements of the Center. Thereafter, such
23 amount as may be necessary for the continuous operation of the Center shall be
24 included in the annual GAA. The budgetary requirements of cooperating agencies
25 shall be incorporated in their respective annual budgets.

26
27 **SEC. 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** — Within six (6) months from
28 the effectivity of this Act, the DTI, in consultation with other concerned government
29 agencies, the academe, the private sector, and non-government organizations, shall
30 promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the effective
31 implementation of this Act.

32
33 **SEC. 15. Separability Clause.** — If any portion or provision of this Act is
34 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provisions
35 hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

1 **SEC. 16. *Repealing Clause.*** — Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
2 executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent or contrary to
3 the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
4

5 **SEC. 17. *Effectivity.*** —This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
6 its complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,