

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session

House Bill No. 6742



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**Introduced by Representative ERIC GO YAP**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Benguet Province is known to be characterized by its mountainous terrains of peaks and valleys, ridges and canyons, and cool weather all year round. In fact, it is through the richness of the land coupled with the cold weather which allows Benguet to be titled the “Salad Bowl of the Philippines”. In addition, such acclamation is due to the very fact that majority of the country’s fruits and vegetables thrive in the province. There is also a wealth of flowers that end up being transported to different parts of the country. However, if there is one thing that Benguet is known for, these are the strawberries. To note, there are over 700 strawberry farms in La Trinidad alone. These farms produce over a thousand metric tons of the said fruit every year – making the province the central and biggest producer of strawberries in this country.

The province also annually holds the Strawberry Festival in pursuit of recognizing the success of strawberry farming as being one of the major economic drivers in the province, as well as encouraging more farmers to be in the industry. Therefore, given such accomplishments, it is a must to officially declare the Province of Benguet as the “Strawberry Capital of the Philippines”, which this bill foremost seeks.

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

  
**ERIC GO YAP**

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**AN ACT**  
**DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF BENGUET AS THE STRAWBERRY CAPITAL**  
**OF THE PHILIPPINES**

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

**SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote and support the strawberry industry in the country and ensure competitiveness in both domestic and foreign markets.

To this end, the State shall recognize the importance of sustaining and enhancing strawberry production as a driver of economic development because strawberry self-sufficiency can tremendously increase the country's export earnings and provide livelihood to our farmers.

**SEC. 2. *Benguet as the Strawberry Capital of the Philippines.*** - In recognition of its status as the country's biggest producer of strawberry, the Province of Benguet is hereby declared the Strawberry Capital of the Philippines.

**SEC. 3. *Effectivity.*** -This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general

Approved,