

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
19th CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10413



Introduced by **REP. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Bicol Region is the country's leading producer of pili nuts. According to the 2021 data from the Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA), the region produced 84% of the total output equivalent to an impressive 4,932.60 metric tons. Pili nuts, an indigenous crop of the Philippines, thrive abundantly in the Province of Sorsogon. The 2018 Commodity Fact Sheet from the PSA indicates that Sorsogon contributes approximately 55% of the total production in the Bicol Region. Since 2014, Sorsogon has consistently held the title of the major pili nut producer among all the provinces in Region V, yielding 4,004.18 metric tons in that year and 2,804.61 metric tons in 2023. Despite a slight decrease in production over the years, Sorsogon's annual output over the last decade still surpasses that of other provinces. In recognition of this status, this bill seeks to declare Sorsogon as the "Pili Capital of the Philippines." Such recognition will serve as an inspiration to boost pili production in the country and ensure competitiveness in both domestic and foreign markets.

Beyond raw production, Sorsogon has also showcased its competence in the pili industry by developing various pili-derived products such as candies, oil, jams, milk, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals. With abundant opportunities and investments within the industry, the potential of pili as a locally-produced commodity can significantly boost the economy.

Article 12, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the promotion of industries that make full and efficient use of human and natural resources, fostering competitiveness in both domestic and foreign markets. In February 2023, foreign opportunities expanded as the European Union (EU) welcomed dried pili nuts among its list of novel foods approved for marketing in the 27 EU States. This recognition presents a boon for local pili processors and exporters, enabling them to profit from higher-value goods. Furthermore, it opens avenues for job creation and livelihood enhancement for local farmers.

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


BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO

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**AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON AS THE PILI CAPITAL
OF THE PHILIPPINES**

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

Sec. 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote and support the pili 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 pili production as a driver of economic development because pili self-sufficiency can tremendously increase the country's export earnings and provide livelihood to our farmers.

Sec. 2. Sorsogon as the Pili Capital of the Philippines. – In recognition of its status as the country's biggest producer of pili, the Province of Sorsogon is hereby declared the Pili Capital of the Philippines.

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

Approved,