

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 1273

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

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 1, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines provides that the State shall promote industrialization and full employment based on sound agricultural development and agrarian reform, through industries that make full and efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are competitive in both domestic and foreign markets. Pursuant to such pronouncement, the State recognizes that one of the means by which socio-economic advancement can be attained is through agricultural development.

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.¹

Pili is widely cultivated in the province of Sorsogon, not only on farms and plantations but also in household backyards. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority's 2018 Commodity Fact Sheet, Sorsogon accounts for approximately 55% of total pili production in the Bicol Region. Since 2014, it has consistently been the leading producer in Region V, with an output of 4,004.18 metric tons in 2014 and 2,804.61 metric tons in 2023. Despite a gradual decline, Sorsogon's annual production over the past decade continues to exceed that of other provinces.

This bill seeks to declare the Province of Sorsogon as the "Pili Capital of the Philippines" in acknowledgment of its leading role in pili production and industry development. The proposed designation is intended to promote increased pili cultivation and strengthen the industry's competitiveness in both domestic and international markets. Beyond raw production, Sorsogon has also showcased its competence in the pili industry by developing various pili-derived products such as

¹ Department of Agriculture (7 March 2023) *Philippines regains EU market access for pili nuts export*. (Accessed last 29 June 2025 from: <https://www.da.gov.ph/philippines-regains-eu-market-access-for-pili-nuts-export/>)

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. 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 approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO

Representative
1st District, Sorsogon

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

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** It is hereby declared the policy of the
2 State to promote and support the pili industry in the country and ensure
3 competitiveness in both domestic and foreign markets.
4

5 To this end, the State shall recognize the importance of sustaining and enhancing
6 pili production as a driver of economic development because pili self-sufficiency can
7 tremendously increase the country's export earnings and provide livelihood to our
8 farmers.
9

10 **SEC. 2. Sorsogon as the Pili Capital of the Philippines.** In recognition of
11 its status as the country's biggest producer of pili, the Province of Sorsogon is
12 hereby declared the Pili Capital of the Philippines.
13

14 **SEC. 3. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect immediately following the
15 completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of
16 general circulation.

Approved,