

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4078**



Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Moringa (*Moringa oleifera*), locally known as *malunggay*, is widely regarded as a "miracle tree" for its exceptional nutritional, medicinal, and economic benefits. It is rich in vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and amino acids, making it an effective natural remedy for malnutrition and various health conditions. Despite its proven value and widespread availability in the Philippines, the full potential of moringa as a food supplement, health product, and export commodity remains largely untapped.

The Philippines has the ecological advantage and indigenous knowledge to become a global leader in moringa production. However, the lack of a comprehensive framework for its development from scientific research, sustainable cultivation, post-harvest processing, investment promotion, to export facilitation continues to hamper the industry's growth and its capacity to contribute to national development.

This bill seeks to institutionalize a comprehensive development plan for the moringa industry, to be led by the Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), local government units (LGUs), moringa farmers' cooperatives, and other stakeholders. It aims to strengthen scientific research, enhance support for moringa farmers, encourage public-private investments, and promote export readiness of moringa-based products.

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


ANGELO MARCOS BARBA

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**AN ACT URGING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT,
AND EXPORT PROMOTION OF THE MORINGA (MORINGA OLEIFERA)
LOCALLY KNOWN AS “MALUNGgay”, AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*Moringa Development Act*”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the declared policy of the State to develop and promote a globally competitive moringa industry with the objective moringa industry with the objective of increasing moringa farmers' income addressing the nutritional and health need of our people, and encouraging trade and industry.

SECTION 3. Development of Moringa. –The Department of Agriculture (DA), in consultation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), moringa growers' cooperatives and organizations, local government units, and the private sector, shall formulate a one year framework to be validated and updated annually.

Such framework shall serve as guide to the formulation and implementation of plans, programs, and projects for the production for the production, marketing, processing, and distribution of moringa for food and commercial needs, as envisioned in this Act. The framework shall likewise provide for the following:

- (a) *National Framework* -The DA, DOST, state universities and colleges (SUCs) and other stakeholders shall strengthen the conduct of researches on moringa particularly on areas of crop improvement, crop protection, harvesting and postharvest handling supply chain analysis, marketing and promotion;
- (b) *Investment Promotion and Facilitation* - The DA and DTI shall develop programs establishing links between stakeholders in the moringa industry and Government Financial Institutions (GFIs) and other financial cooperatives. The DA and DTI shall likewise develop and implement programs that would establish reasonable and innovative investment incentive to attract more players in the moringa industry;
- (c) *Export Promotion Support* - An integrated and a strategic export promotion program for the moringa industry shall be created. The export promotion program shall be responsive to market conditions, needs of the exporters, and possibilities offered by new products and technologies. It shall likewise provide foreign trade and export promotion activities through trainings, technical assistance, capacity building, generating awareness on export opportunities and export planning assistance;
- (d) *Strengthen Trade Policies and Support Network* - The DA shall be responsible in coordinating a consultative approach for the various stages of the trade policy making process. The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) shall lead the negotiation of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to provide a competitive environment for moringa exports abroad; and
- (e) *Monitoring and Evaluation* - The DA shall continuously monitor, track, and analyze the progress and outcomes of the programs to be implemented to determine over-all effectiveness.

SECTION 4. Designating the Department of Agriculture-High Value Crops Development Program (DA-HVCDP) as the Office in Charge in the Development of the Moringa Industry. - The DA-HVCDP is hereby tasked to implement the development of the Moringa Industry. The Department of Agriculture shall allocate an annual budget to said office pursuant to its additional task of developing the Moringa Industry.

SECTION 5. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA). Thereafter, such funds as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the succeeding annual GAA.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* - Any portion or provisions of this Act that is declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,