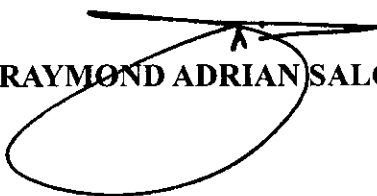


This proposed measure seeks to institutionalize the use of bamboo as a sustainable material for the built environment by:

1. Establishing Bamboo Referral Codes under the Structural Code and Architectural Code of the Philippines, to ensure safety, reliability, and performance standards for bamboo-based construction;
2. Supporting research, development, and innovation in engineered and structural bamboo through the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and higher education institutions;
3. Mandating government infrastructure projects to utilize bamboo-based materials wherever feasible, creating baseline demand;
4. Promoting bamboo education and training, from curriculum integration in architecture and engineering to continuing professional development for practitioners;
5. Providing incentives for bamboo farming, plantation development, and processing, including access to credit, crop insurance, tax incentives, and market linkages; and
6. Establishing mechanisms for certification, standardization, and product quality assurance to enable domestic and export competitiveness.

By passing this measure, the Philippines can strengthen its bamboo industry as a pillar of green growth, climate resilience, and rural development. It will provide farmers with new livelihood opportunities, reduce dependence on imported construction materials, and position the country as a leader in sustainable architecture and design.

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


RAYMOND ADRIAN SALCEDA

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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4329**

Introduced by **Representative RAYMOND ADRIAN SALCEDA**

AN ACT
MAINSTREAMING THE USE OF BAMBOO AS A SUSTAINABLE MATERIAL
FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the “Bamboo for a Sustainable Built Environment Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the declared policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

It is likewise the policy of the State to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth and productive employment; make human settlements safe, resilient, and sustainable; protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems; manage forests sustainably; combat desertification; halt and reverse land degradation; and halt biodiversity loss.

In pursuance of this policy, the State shall encourage the propagation and use of bamboo for a sustainable built environment.

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

- (a) Bamboo refers to any species within the subfamily Bambusoideae of the family Poaceae, defined as a tropical, subtropical, or temperate fast-growing grass with lignocellulosic matrix, usually having hollow culms, recognized by the relevant government agencies as a suitable material for a bamboo structure or for the built environment;
- (b) Bamboo Architectural Code (BAC) refers to the set of regulations and standards governing the design, construction, inspection, and maintenance of bamboo as

architectural building materials. In accordance with Section 4 of this Act, the BAC shall be incorporated in the Architectural Code of the Philippines;

- (c) Bamboo Structural Code (BSC) refers to the set of regulations and standards governing the design, construction, inspection, and maintenance of bamboo as structural building materials. In accordance with Section 4 of this Act, the BSC shall be incorporated in the Structural Code of the Philippines;
- (d) Bamboo structure refers to any building or structure in which bamboo is used as a primary load-bearing material;
- (e) Engineered bamboo refers to composite products manufactured by binding together veneers, strands, particles, fibers, strips, or slats of bamboo with a suitable adhesive designed to meet specific uses and compliant in accordance with Section 5 of this Act;
- (f) Structural bamboo refers to bamboo in a type or form utilized for structure, construction, and load-bearing purposes; and
- (g) Structural engineered bamboo refers to engineered bamboo utilized as a load-bearing material.

SEC. 4. *Development of the Bamboo Referral Codes for Incorporation in the Structural Code of the Philippines and Architectural Code of the Philippines.* To mainstream the use of bamboo in the built environment for reduced environmental impact throughout its lifecycle, integrate and implement green practices, and promote the development of a green local market for bamboo, and to enhance adherence to the referral standards, the following shall be undertaken:

- (a) Development of the BAC for adoption in the Architectural Code of the Philippines – The Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture, in consultation with the Board of Architecture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), and other relevant stakeholders in the use of bamboo for the built environment, shall develop the BAC. The BAC shall include standards taking into account bamboo construction, aesthetics, safety, environmental impact, and cultural considerations;
- (b) Development of the BSC for adoption in the Structural Code of the Philippines – The Professional Regulatory Board of Civil Engineering, in consultation with the Board of Civil Engineering, DENR, DHSUD, and other relevant stakeholders, shall develop the BSC. The BSC shall include guidelines and standards on structural integrity and safety.

SEC. 5. *Implementation of the Bamboo Referral Codes.*

- (a) All construction projects that incorporate bamboo as a primary load-bearing material shall comply with the provisions of the BSC and BAC;

- (b) The Philippine Bamboo Industry Council (PBIDC) shall enforce compliance with the BSC and BAC, in consultation with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for certification and green product labelling, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) for technical research, and other agencies for monitoring and compliance.

SEC. 6. *Promoting Bamboo as a Sustainable Building Material.* The PBIDC shall:

- (a) Coordinate with the DOST and other relevant agencies to encourage research and development in bamboo engineering, construction technologies, and utilization of bamboo composites;
- (b) Promote awareness of the benefits of bamboo through public campaigns, education programs, and incentives for bamboo cultivation;
- (c) Develop programs and projects that will promote bamboo plantations and ensure its widespread use in construction.

SEC. 7. *Baseline Utilization of Bamboo for Building Construction.* Within three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act, government agencies shall adopt measures to ensure that infrastructure programs use bamboo where feasible. For all public building construction, at least fifty percent (50%) of the wood-based structural components shall use bamboo, subject to availability and structural safety standards.

SEC. 8. *Practical Education.* The Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in consultation with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), shall integrate bamboo utilization in the built environment into architecture, engineering, and related curricula. Continuing professional development programs shall likewise include modules on structural bamboo and engineered bamboo.

SEC. 9. *Certification of Bamboo for Construction.* Bamboo products, by-products, and derivatives used in construction shall comply with the Philippine National Standards, the Philippine Building Code, and other applicable referral codes.

SEC. 10. *Incentives.* To encourage registered farmer cooperatives and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) engaged in bamboo production and processing, the following incentives shall apply:

- (a) Exemption from rent for use of government lands for commercial bamboo plantations for the first five (5) years of operation;
- (b) Access to development loans from public financial institutions;
- (c) Insurance coverage from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC);
- (d) Tax-free importation of processing equipment; and
- (e) Inclusion in government procurement programs for sustainable construction.

SEC. 11. *Reporting and Review.* The PBIDC, DTI, and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall conduct periodic reviews and publish updated reports on best practices in bamboo construction.

SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PBIDC, in coordination with the DPWH, DENR, DOST, DHSUD, CHED, PRC, and other relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, and administrative regulations inconsistent with this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,