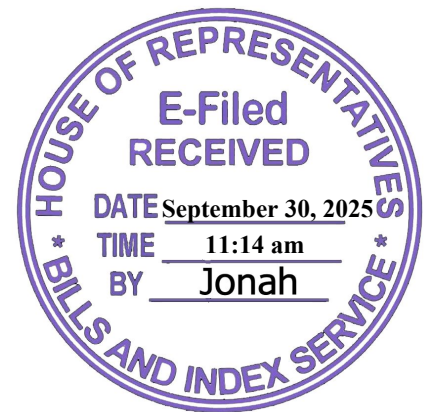


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4982



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, being highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, must adopt innovative and sustainable solutions across all sectors, particularly in construction. The traditional built environment relies heavily on carbon-intensive materials such as steel and concrete, which contribute significantly to global greenhouse gas emissions. The production of cement alone accounts for around 8% of global CO₂ emissions.

Bamboo offers a compelling alternative. It is one of the fastest-growing plants on Earth, with some species growing up to a meter a day. This rapid growth makes it a highly renewable resource. Furthermore, bamboo culms can be harvested in as little as three to five years, a stark contrast to timber, which can take decades to mature. Bamboo also acts as a powerful carbon sink, sequestering large amounts of CO₂ from the atmosphere, and its extensive root systems help prevent soil erosion, making it an excellent tool for land rehabilitation.

From an economic perspective, promoting bamboo will create a new and sustainable industry, generating jobs from farming and processing to architectural design and construction. The bill provides a framework for this new industry, ensuring it is a source of livelihood for many, especially in rural areas.

This proposed measure ensures that the government takes the lead in adopting sustainable practices. By mandating the use of bamboo in government infrastructure, the bill creates a stable demand for bamboo products, which will encourage investment in the bamboo industry.

The bill offers tax incentives and financial assistance to the private sector to make the use of bamboo economically attractive. This will encourage businesses and developers to adopt bamboo and engineered bamboo in their projects.

By including bamboo in the National Structural Code of the Philippines, the bill provides a legal and technical foundation for its use. This will give engineers, architects, and builders the confidence to use bamboo in their designs.

In conclusion, this bill is a landmark piece of legislation that will position the Philippines as a global leader in sustainable and climate-resilient construction. It provides a comprehensive approach to mainstreaming bamboo, addressing the environmental, economic, and social dimensions of sustainable development. The bill will not only help the country meet its climate change commitments but also build a more resilient and prosperous future for Filipinos.

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



SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4982

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

**AN ACT MAINSTREAMING THE USE OF BAMBOO AS A SUSTAINABLE
AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT MATERIAL FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT,
PROVIDING INCENTIVES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 "Bamboo Built Environment Act of 2025."

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy* - It is the policy of the State to promote sustainable development, mitigate the effects of climate change, and protect the environment. Recognizing bamboo's potential as a renewable, fast-growing, and versatile material, the State shall actively encourage and mandate its use in the built environment to reduce reliance on traditional, carbon-intensive materials like steel and concrete. This policy aims to foster a green economy, create livelihood opportunities, and preserve the country's natural resources.

Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms* - For the purpose of this Act, the following terms are defined:

- **Built Environment:** Refers to human-made structures, including buildings, infrastructure, landscapes, and other physical systems that support human activity.
- **Engineered Bamboo:** Refers to bamboo products processed and manufactured for structural and non-structural applications, such as laminated bamboo, bamboo scrimber, and other composite materials.
- **Green Building:** A building that is environmentally responsible and resource-efficient throughout its life cycle, from site to design, construction, operation, maintenance, renovation, and demolition.

- **Mainstreaming:** The process of integrating the use of bamboo as a standard and preferred material in construction and development projects.

Sec. 4. *Mainstreaming the Use of Bamboo* -

- A. **Government Projects:** All government agencies and local government units (LGUs) shall prioritize the use of bamboo and engineered bamboo in their construction projects, including but not limited to public school buildings, health centers, government offices, and socialized housing. At least twenty percent (20%) of the total material cost of new government infrastructure projects shall be allocated for the use of bamboo materials where technically and structurally feasible.
- B. **Private Sector Projects:** The use of bamboo is strongly encouraged in all private construction projects, especially those seeking Green Building certifications. The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) shall develop a Green Building Code that includes provisions for the use of bamboo as an alternative and sustainable material.

Sec. 5. *Research and Development* - The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), in collaboration with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), shall lead and fund research and development initiatives on bamboo cultivation, processing, and its application in the built environment. This includes developing new engineered bamboo products, establishing local and international standards for bamboo materials, and improving construction techniques.

Sec. 6. *Incentives* - To encourage the adoption of bamboo, the following incentives shall be provided:

- **Tax Incentives:** Businesses and individuals who use a significant percentage of bamboo materials in their construction projects may be eligible for tax deductions or exemptions, as determined by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) in consultation with the DTI.
- **Financial Assistance:** The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) shall create a special loan program with preferential rates for businesses involved in the production of engineered bamboo or for construction projects that use bamboo.
- **Subsidies:** The government may provide subsidies for the acquisition of bamboo-based materials for socialized housing projects and other public infrastructure.

Sec. 7. *Regulatory Framework* - The DPWH, in collaboration with relevant agencies, shall:

- A. Develop and update the National Structural Code of the Philippines to include standards for the structural design and use of bamboo and engineered bamboo.
- B. Create a national certification system for bamboo products to ensure quality, safety, and durability.
- C. Streamline the permitting process for construction projects that utilize bamboo as the primary material.

Sec. 8. *Capacity Building and Promotion* - The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) shall develop and offer training programs on bamboo processing and construction. The DTI and the Department of Tourism (DOT) shall actively promote the use of bamboo in architectural design and product development, highlighting its cultural and aesthetic value.

Sec. 9. *Appropriations* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 10. *Separability Clause*. - If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions or parts thereof that are not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 11. *Repealing Clause*. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 12. *Effectivity*. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,