



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7678

Introduced by **HON. YEVGENY VINCENTE B. EMANO**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MINDANAO HALAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND
EXPORT PROMOTION PROGRAM, STRENGTHENING REGIONAL HALAL VALUE
CHAINS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Halal industry has emerged as one of the fastest-growing segments of global trade, covering a wide range of economic activities including food and agriculture, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, logistics, tourism, and related services. Driven by a rapidly expanding global Muslim population and increasing consumer demand for Halal-certified products across both Muslim and non-Muslim markets, the global Halal economy now represents a significant opportunity for export growth, employment generation, and inclusive development.

Mindanao, particularly provinces and cities with significant Muslim populations, is uniquely positioned to serve as the Philippines' primary Halal production and export base. The region possesses deep-rooted cultural and religious foundations supportive of Halal standards, a large and skilled labor force, and extensive agricultural resources suitable for Halal-compliant production. These inherent advantages, however, have yet to be fully harnessed due to structural and institutional gaps in industry development and coordination.

Republic Act No. 10817, otherwise known as the "Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotion Act of 2016," established the national policy framework for the promotion and development of Halal exports. While this law laid down the overall direction for Halal industry growth at the national level, it did not provide a dedicated regional implementation mechanism tailored to the specific conditions of Mindanao. As a result, Mindanao-based producers, particularly micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), continue to face barriers in accessing certification, infrastructure, financing, and export markets, limiting their effective participation in the Halal value chain.

Mindanao continues to confront persistent structural challenges, including the limited availability of Halal-compliant infrastructure such as slaughterhouses, laboratories, cold storage, and logistics facilities; fragmented coordination among national government agencies, local government units, and private stakeholders; insufficient integration of Halal development into local economic planning; and weak export-readiness and market-linkage support for enterprises. These constraints are further compounded in conflict-affected and geographically isolated areas, where economic opportunities remain scarce.

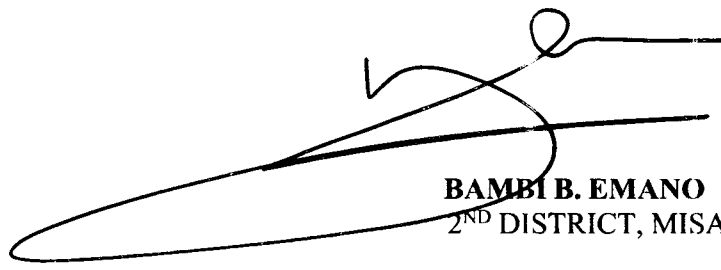
Addressing these challenges requires a focused, region-specific approach that complements existing national policies while responding directly to Mindanao's development realities. Such an approach must also respect the constitutional and statutory autonomy of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), ensuring that implementation within the region is undertaken in coordination with the Bangsamoro Government and in accordance with the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

This bill seeks to establish a Mindanao Halal Industry Development and Export Promotion Program that will serve as a coordinated framework for Halal industry initiatives in the region. The proposed measure aims to strengthen regional Halal value chains, support MSMEs through capacity-building and market access, promote Halal-compliant infrastructure development, and enhance export competitiveness. By doing so, the bill positions Mindanao as the country's Halal industry growth center and a key contributor to national export performance.

The measure does not amend, repeal, or duplicate Republic Act No. 10817. Instead, it operationalizes and reinforces the objectives of the existing law by translating national policy into concrete, regionally responsive programs and coordination mechanisms tailored to Mindanao's needs.

This proposed legislation is firmly anchored on the constitutional policies of promoting inclusive growth, regional development, social justice, and the welfare of Muslim Filipinos. It recognizes economic development as a vital component of peacebuilding and national integration, and seeks to ensure that Mindanao's cultural strengths are transformed into sustainable economic opportunities.

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



BAMBI B. EMANO
2ND DISTRICT, MISAMIS ORIENTAL



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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 “Mindanao Halal Industry Development and Export Promotion Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

- (a) Promote inclusive and sustainable economic development in Mindanao;
- (b) Enhance the participation of Mindanao-based enterprises in the Halal industry;
- (c) Support the growth of Halal-related agriculture, manufacturing, and services;
- (d) Strengthen export competitiveness through coordinated regional development; and
- (e) Complement existing national Halal laws and policies through targeted regional implementation.

SECTION 3. *Coverage.* - This Act shall apply to all provinces, cities, and municipalities in Mindanao, including the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), subject to the constitutional and statutory powers of the Bangsamoro Government.

SECTION 4. *Relation to Republic Act No. 10817.* - This Act shall supplement and operationalize Republic Act No. 10817, entitled “An Act Instituting the Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotion Program, Creating for the Purpose the Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotion Board, and for Other Purposes.” Nothing herein shall be construed to amend, repeal, or diminish the authority of the Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotion Board or any government agency under existing laws.

SECTION 5. *Establishing of the Mindanao Halal Industry Development Program.*- There is hereby established the **Mindanao Halal Industry Development Program (MHIDP)**, which shall serve as the primary framework for coordinating Halal industry development initiatives in Mindanao.

The Program shall be implemented by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in coordination with concerned national government agencies, local government units, the private sector, and the Bangsamoro Government.

SECTION 6. *Program Components.*- The MHIDP shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) **Industry Clustering and Value Chain Development** – identification and support of Halal industry clusters covering production, processing, logistics, and distribution;
- (b) **MSME Development and Capacity Building** – technical assistance, skills training, and access to financing;
- (c) **Halal-Compliant Infrastructure Support** – facilitation of investments in slaughterhouses, cold storage, laboratories, and logistics facilities;
- (d) **Certification Access and Coordination** – assistance to enterprises in securing Halal certification from accredited bodies;
- (e) **Export Promotion and Market Linkages** – trade promotion activities, buyer-seller matching, and export readiness programs.

SECTION 7. *Creation of the Mindanao Halal Industry Council.*- There is hereby created a **Mindanao Halal Industry Council (MHIC)**, which shall serve as an advisory and coordinating body for the Program.

Composition:

- (a) DTI Regional Operations Group Supervising Head, as Chairperson;
- (b) One representative each from the Departments of Agriculture, Science and Technology, and Tourism;
- (c) One representative from the Board of Investments;
- (d) One representative from the Bangsamoro Government;
- (e) Two representatives from Mindanao local government units;
- (f) Two representatives from recognized Halal industry associations; and
- (g) One representative from Islamic scholars endorsed by accredited Halal certifying bodies.

SECTION. 8. *Functions of the Council.*- The Council shall:

- (a) Recommend policies and strategies for Halal industry development in Mindanao;
- (b) Coordinate programs among national agencies and LGUs;
- (c) Identify priority areas for investment and infrastructure support; and
- (d) Monitor the implementation of the Program.

SECTION. 9. *Role of the Local Government Units.*- Local government units are encouraged to:

- (a) Integrate Halal industry development into their local development and investment plans;
- (b) Support Halal enterprises through streamlined business processes;
- (c) Enact ordinances consistent with this Act; and
- (d) Promote community-based Halal enterprises.

SECTION. 10. *Implementation in the BARMM.*- The implementation of this Act within BARMM shall be undertaken in coordination with the Bangsamoro Government and in accordance with Republic Act No. 11054, otherwise known as the *Bangsamoro Organic Law*.

SECTION. 11. *Misrepresentation of Halal Certification.*- Any person or entity that knowingly and willfully misrepresents Halal certification in the conduct of business shall be subject to penalties under applicable laws, without prejudice to administrative sanctions imposed by concerned government agencies.

SECTION. 12. *Appropriations.*- The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DTI and other concerned agencies. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*- Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the concerned agencies shall jointly issue the implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION. 14. *Separability Clause.*- If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION. 15. *Repealing Clause.*- All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION. 16. *Effectivity.*- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,