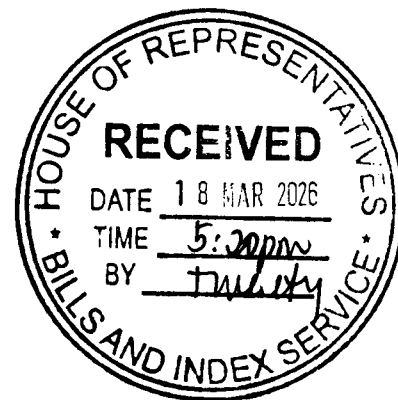


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8675



Introduced by: HON. BAMBI B. EMANO

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING AND REVITALIZING THE PHILIPPINE BANANA
INDUSTRY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The banana industry is one of the most important components of Philippine agriculture, serving as a major contributor to export earnings, rural employment, and food security. Millions of Filipino households depend on banana cultivation, processing, transport, and trade for their livelihood, especially with the Philippines being one of the world's leading producers and exporters of bananas, supplying major international markets such as Japan, China, South Korea, and countries in the Middle East.

In Northern Mindanao, banana production plays a significant role in sustaining provincial and municipal economies. Misamis Oriental, in particular, hosts a substantial number of smallholder banana growers who supply local markets and agro-processors while contributing to regional food supply chains. The province's strategic access to ports, road networks, and commercial centers gives it strong potential for expansion in both domestic and export-oriented banana production. However, many producers in Misamis Oriental and nearby provinces remain vulnerable to rising input costs, plant diseases, climate-related disruptions, and limited access to institutional support.

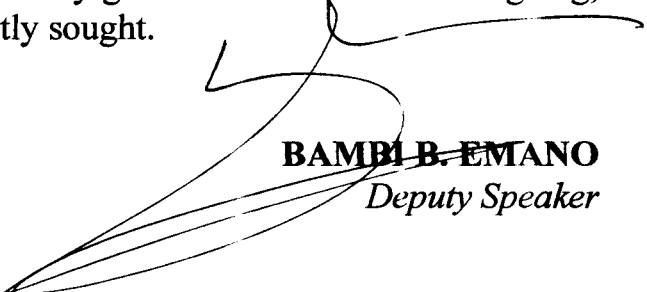
As a whole, the Philippine banana industry has experienced declining productivity and competitiveness in recent years. Increasing production costs, shrinking cultivated areas due to pest and disease infestations, extreme weather events, and

intensified competition from other banana-exporting countries have adversely affected output and export volumes. The country's share in key international markets has steadily declined, threatening long-term industry viability and farmer incomes.

This measure seeks to institutionalize a Philippine Banana Industry Development Roadmap, to be implemented through a multi-sectoral Philippine Banana Industry Development Council. The Roadmap shall provide a unified framework for increasing production, ensuring sustainability, strengthening research and development, modernizing farming and processing practices, improving market access, and protecting the welfare of farmers and workers.

The bill further emphasizes the importance of sustained investment in research and innovation to address persistent threats such as banana diseases and postharvest losses. For this purpose, the establishment of a Philippine National Banana Research Center under the Department of Agriculture is proposed to support crop improvement, disease management, and technology transfer nationwide, benefiting both large plantations and smallholder growers.

Strengthening the banana industry is essential to national food security, economic resilience, and rural development. Sustainable progress requires that farmers and farmworkers meaningfully benefit from industry growth. In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



BAMBL B. EMANO
Deputy Speaker

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9575

Introduced by: HON. BAMBI B. EMANO

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING AND REVITALIZING THE PHILIPPINE BANANA
INDUSTRY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “Philippine Banana Industry Development Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the policy of the State to promote rural development and agricultural productivity through the establishment of a globally competitive banana industry. Toward this end, the State shall support banana farmers and producers by addressing pest and disease control, improving productivity, strengthening market access, integrating smallholders into value chains, and diversifying export markets.

The State recognizes agriculture as essential to food security, economic stability, and rural employment, and affirms the rights and welfare of banana workers consistent with the Constitution and existing labor laws. Environmental protection and sustainable resource management shall guide all industry development initiatives.

SEC 3. *Definition of Terms.* For purposes of this Act, the terms *banana*, *banana cultivars*, *banana farms*, *banana producers*, *smallholder banana producers*, *banana-based processed products*, *economically important banana diseases*, *cooperatives*, *workers*, and other related terms shall be understood as defined under existing agricultural and industry standards and as specified in this Act.

SEC 4. *Philippine Banana Industry Development Roadmap.* A Philippine Banana Industry Development Roadmap (“Banana Roadmap”) shall be formulated to guide the development, modernization, research, processing, marketing, and commercialization of the banana industry. The Roadmap shall be updated every five (5) years and shall aim to:

- a. Increase banana production and achieve industry sustainability
- b. Expand banana-growing areas and encourage farmer participation
- c. Promote environmentally sound production practices
- d. Encourage public and private investments
- e. Strengthen cooperatives and farmer organizations
- f. Improve domestic and international market access
- g. Support research, development, and technology transfer
- h. Ensure regular funding for industry programs
- i. Provide continuous training and capacity-building

SEC. 5. *Creation of the Philippine Banana Industry Development Council.* There is hereby created a Philippine Banana Industry Development Council (“Banana Council”) to oversee the implementation of the Banana Roadmap. The Council shall be chaired by the Secretary of Agriculture, with the Secretary of Trade and Industry as Vice-Chair, and shall be composed of representatives from relevant government agencies, local government leagues, the private sector, and banana farmer cooperatives from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

SEC. 6. *Powers and Functions of the Banana Council.* The Banana Council shall:

- a. Formulate and update the Banana Roadmap
- b. Identify priority programs and projects
- c. Facilitate financing and credit access
- d. Promote productivity, market linkage, and export development
- e. Support research, innovation, and disease control
- f. Establish insurance and risk-mitigation mechanisms
- g. Promote the protection of native banana varieties
- h. Monitor and evaluate program implementation
- i. Recommend annual budgetary requirement
- j. Submit annual reports to the President and Congress

SEC. 7. *Program Management Office.* A Program Management Office (PMO) under the Department of Agriculture shall be created to implement the Banana Roadmap and serve as the Secretariat of the Banana Council.

SEC. 8. *Banana as an Agricultural Product.* Banana, whether fresh or processed, is hereby classified as an agricultural product. Farm inputs, machinery, and post-harvest and processing equipment used for banana production shall be exempt from applicable import taxes, subject to existing laws.

SEC. 9. *Identification and Utilization of Public Lands.* The Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the DENR and other concerned agencies, shall identify and map suitable public lands for banana production, prioritizing identified provinces in Mindanao. Existing land tenure instruments may be amended to include banana production, subject to applicable laws.

SEC. 10. *Registration of Banana Producers.* All banana producers shall be registered with the Bureau of Plant Industry. Existing registrants shall be automatically recognized. Registration procedures, renewal periods, and appeal mechanisms shall be administered by the BPI in coordination with relevant agencies.

SEC. 11. *Support to Banana Farms and Producers.* The DA-BPI shall provide technical, material, and organizational support to banana farmers and cooperatives, including access to inputs, machinery, extension services, and modern production technologies. A Development of Banana Industry Program shall be institutionalized under the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 12. *Banana Farm Roads.* Farm-to-market roads serving banana-producing areas shall be identified and constructed in coordination with LGUs and the DPWH.

SEC. 13. *Research, Extension, and Training.* The DA, through its attached agencies and in partnership with SUCs, TESDA, and DOST shall promote research, mechanization, extension services, and training programs to enhance productivity, food safety compliance, and global competitiveness.

SEC. 14. *Cooperatives, Trade, and Export Support.* The State shall strengthen banana cooperatives and provide trade and export assistance through financing, market intelligence, export promotion, and trade defense mechanisms. Preference shall be given to locally produced bananas in government procurement.

SEC. 15. *Importation and Use of Banana.* Banana importation shall be subject to permits issued through a single-window system managed by DA-BPI, with FDA clearance when applicable. The use of domestically produced bananas shall be encouraged in government programs.

SEC. 16. *Incentives.* Qualified banana investors and producers shall be entitled to incentives including access to credit, insurance coverage, mechanization support, and fiscal incentives under existing investment laws.

SEC. 17. *Philippine National Banana Research Center.* There is hereby established, under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture, a Philippine National Banana Research Center which shall serve as the lead institution for research and development on crop improvement, disease prevention and management, post-harvest handling, value addition, germplasm conservation, climate resilience, and technology transfer for the banana industry. The Center shall be headquartered in Misamis Oriental (Mindanao), with regional research extensions in Samar (Visayas) and Quezon (Luzon) to ensure nationwide coverage and effective support to major banana-producing areas across the country.

SEC. 18. *Administration of the Research Center.* The Center shall be headed by an Executive Director appointed by the President upon recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture, and shall submit annual reports on its operations.

SEC. 19. *Funding.* A Banana Industry Development Fund is hereby created with an initial allocation of Five Hundred Million Pesos (₱500,000,000.00), to be sourced from the Department of Agriculture and subsequent General Appropriations Acts.

SEC. 20. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in force.

SEC. 21. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 22. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,