



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

20th CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9057



Introduced by Representative SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA

AN ACT
TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SEAWEED INDUSTRY IN
THE PHILIPPINES, ENHANCING RESEARCH, SUPPORT, AND GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The seaweed industry occupies a large share in our country's fisheries sector, and the Province of Maguindanao del Norte contributes significantly to the aquaculture production, with seaweeds accounting for a substantial portion of the regional aquaculture output.

Seaweed as a raw material for food, pharmaceutical, and cosmetic production is an important economic driver in coastal communities; however, our share in the global seaweed market has been gradually shrinking due to the challenges brought by climate change, environmental degradation, outbreaks of disease, unstable market prices, and insufficient post-harvest facilities and infrastructure.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has projected that these conditions threaten not only the industry's competitiveness but also the livelihoods of over 1.2 million Filipinos who depend largely on revenues from seaweed farming.

This bill seeks to establish a comprehensive and sustainable development framework for the seaweed industry sector in the field of research, innovation, material quality, and modern production and post-harvest facilities.

It is envisioned that by proactively addressing these concerns, we can position the Philippine seaweed industry as world-class, meet international standards, and expand market reach.

More than anything else, this proposal, when realized, supports coastal communities in reaping the economic benefits that this institutionalization of the seaweed industry shall henceforth bring about.

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



SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA

Representative

Maguindanao del Norte, Lone District with Cotabato City



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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 "*Seaweed Industry Development and Sustainability Act of 2026.* "

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy* — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to revitalize and promote the sustainable development of the seaweed industry, recognizing its importance to the national economy and the livelihood of coastal communities, and to reassert the Philippines' status as a global leader in seaweed production and export.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* — The objectives of this Act are to:

- a) Encourage sustainable and environmentally friendly seaweed farming practices.
- b) Support research and development initiatives for the advancement of the seaweed industry;
- c) Provide comprehensive support and assistance to seaweed farmers and producers;

SEC. 4. *Sustainable Seaweed Farming Practices.* — The Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), shall develop and promote sustainable seaweed farming practices, ensuring the protection of marine ecosystems and biodiversity.

SEC. 5. *Research and Development* —The DA, through BFAR and in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), shall initiate and support research and development projects aimed at improving seaweed production technologies, disease management, and product innovation.

SEC. 6. *Support and Assistance for Seaweed Farmers*. — The government shall provide comprehensive support to seaweed farmers, including access to quality seedlings, technical training, post-harvest facilities, market promotion, and financial assistance. Special emphasis shall be placed on small-scale farmers and community-based initiatives.

SEC. 7. *Market Competitiveness and Export Promotion*. — The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in collaboration with the DA and BFAR, shall implement strategies to enhance the market competitiveness of Philippine seaweed, including branding, marketing, and establishing trade partnerships to expand export opportunities.

SEC. 8. *Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience*. — Recognizing the vulnerability of seaweed farming to climate change, the government shall develop and implement strategies to increase the resilience of the seaweed industry to environmental challenges, including rising sea levels and increasing ocean temperatures.

SEC. 9. *Appropriations*. — The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current budget of the DA. Thereafter, such as may be necessary for the continuous implementation, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) and may also be sourced from BFAR or other applicable funds.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* - The DA, in consultation with BFAR, DTI, DOST, and other relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days after its enactment.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause*. — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause*. — All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity*. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette, or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved.