

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE

S.B. No. 1255

RECEIVED BY: _____



Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

AN ACT
URGING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND
EXPORT PROMOTION OF THE MORINGA (*MORINGA OLEIFERA*), LOCALLY
KNOWN AS "MALUNGGAY", AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

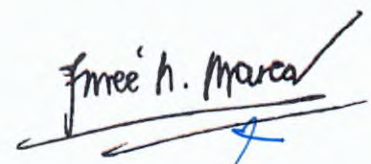
Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "*the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.*"

Moringa (*Moringa oleifera*), locally known as *malunggay*, is a common green vegetable that grows in practically all soil types and weather conditions in the country. Known as the "miracle vegetable" and "nature's medicine cabinet" by researchers and health professionals around the world, moringa is a powerhouse of nutritional value. Moringa is used as natural maternal and childcare food supplement, as well as in the management of different ailments such as diabetes, hypertension, aging issues, and other lifestyle diseases. Last October 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) has recognized the value of moringa in its efforts against malnutrition, promoting it as a low-cost health enhancer in poor countries around the world.

In addition to its nutritional value, moringa trees can also help stabilize the soil and reduce deforestation. As such, given the global potential of moringa, the country should enhance the promotion of planting moringa. There is a need to expand the local

and foreign market of moringa and its products to enhance the agribusiness potential of the crop as part of the country's poverty-alleviation and health care program. The development of a moringa-based agro-industry can help address the nutritional deficiency problems in the countryside and urban slums, increase on-farm, off-farm and non-farm enterprise incomes, improve the utilization of idle lands and urban spaces, and help reduce poverty.

Given the abovementioned circumstances, the immediate passage of this bill is necessary.



IMEE R. MARCOS



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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "*Moringa Development*
2 *Act.*"

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 develop and promote a globally competitive moringa Industry with the objective of
6 increasing moringa farmers, income, addressing the nutritional and health needs of our
7 people, and encouraging trade and industry.

8
9 **SEC. 3. Development of Moringa.** – The Department of Agriculture (DA), in
10 consultation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR),
11 Department of Science and Technology (DOST), moringa growers' cooperatives and
12 organizations, local government units, and the private sector, shall formulate a one-
13 year framework to be validated and updated annually. Such framework shall serve as
14 guide to the formulation and implementation of plans, programs and projects for the
15 production, marketing, processing and distribution of moringa for food and commercial
16 needs, as envisioned in this Act. The framework shall likewise provide for the following:

- 17
18 a. National Framework – The DA, DOST, state universities and colleges (SUCs)
19 and other stakeholders shall strengthen the conduct of researches on
20 moringa particularly on areas of crop improvement, crop protection,

1 harvesting and postharvest handling, supply chain analysis, marketing and
2 promotion;
3

4 b. Investment Promotion and Facilitation – The DA and DTI shall develop
5 programs establishing links between stakeholders in the moringa industry
6 and Government Financial Institutions (GFIs) and other financial
7 cooperatives. The DA and DTI shall likewise develop and implement
8 programs that would establish reasonable and innovative investment
9 incentives to attract more players in the moringa industry;
10

11 c. Export Promotion Support – An integrated and strategic export promotion
12 program for moringa industry shall be created. The export promotion
13 program shall be responsive to market conditions, needs of the exporters,
14 and possibilities offered by new products and technologies. It shall likewise
15 provide foreign trade and export promotion activities through trainings,
16 technical assistance, capacity building, generating awareness on export
17 opportunities, and export planning assistance;
18

19 d. Strengthen Trade Policies and Support Network – The DA shall be responsible
20 in coordinating a consultative approach for the various stages of the trade
21 policy making process. The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) shall lead
22 the negotiation of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to provide a competitive
23 environment for moringa exports abroad; and
24

25 e. Monitoring and Evaluation – The DA shall continuously monitor, track, and
26 analyze the progress and outcomes of the programs to be implemented to
27 determine over-all effectiveness.
28

29 **SEC. 4. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be
30 included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA). Thereafter, such funds as
31 may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the
32 succeeding annual GAA.
33

34 **SEC. 5. Repealing Clause.** – All provisions of existing laws, orders and
35 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified
36 accordingly.
37

1 **SEC. 6. Separability Clause.** – If for any reason any part or provision of this Act
2 shall be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall
3 not be affected and shall remain in force and effect.

4

5 **Sec. 7. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
6 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,