

'22 NOV -3 P5 :07

SENATE

S. B. No. 1450

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

AN ACT
PROMOTING AND REVITALIZING THE SALT INDUSTRY OF THE
PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.
8172, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT FOR SALT IODIZATION
NATIONWIDE (ASIN)," PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 8172, or "An Act for Salt Iodization Nationwide (ASIN)," was signed into law by former President Fidel V. Ramos in 1995, with the main objectives of protecting and promoting the health of Filipinos and eliminating micronutrient malnutrition, particularly iodine deficiency disorders. The ASIN law required all producers and manufacturers to iodize the salt that they produce, manufacture, import, trade, or distribute. This requirement to iodize all salt for human and animal consumption, however, made it difficult for subsistence, small, and medium salt farmers and producers to adapt, as it required technology and capital for them to fully comply and remain in operation.¹

The local salt industry has since been neglected. Despite having 36,000 km of shoreline, the fifth longest in the world, the number of salt farmers and the local salt industry has declined in the past decade. While the ASIN law has achieved most of its health objectives, local salt production has been left behind. In the 1990s, local producers supplied 85% of the country's salt requirement and imported only 15% of the total supply. In 2020, the Philippines' salt imports reached 93% of total supply, while only 7% were produced locally.² The average annual salt consumption amounting to 683,000 metric tons, is set to increase to about a billion metric tons in view of the passage of the Republic Act No. 1024, or the "Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act," which creates an additional demand of at least 300,000 metric tons of salt per year to supply coconut trees with adequate fertilizers.³

History and science have long established the value of salt in every aspect of human life. It has over 14,000 uses and has been an important good, not only for daily use, but also as a necessary raw material in the production of other products and chemicals.⁴

¹ Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Inputs, *2021-2026 Philippine Salt Industry Roadmap*, Emailed to the Office of Senator Villanueva on 2 September 2022.

² Department of Health (DOH Inputs), *Draft Progress Report to Congress on the ASIN Law*, Emailed to the Office of Senator Villanueva on 2 September 2022.

³ Op. cit. DTI

⁴ *Ibid.*

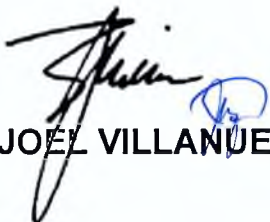
The Philippines, with its tens of thousands of shoreline, has an enormous untapped and neglected resource that could have changed the lives of local salt farmers and families living in coastal areas. About 60% of the country's population live in coastal zones⁵ yet, according to data from Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food, Inc. (PCAFI), only 50,000 are recorded⁶ to have been previously employed in salt production. This number is still dwindling.

This bill seeks to revive the local salt industry by establishing a Salt Industry Development and Revitalization Program. To implement such Program, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) shall prepare a Plan, governed by the following objectives:

- 1) Increased productivity and income of local salt producers and manufacturers;
- 2) Rehabilitation and modernization of the salt industry;
- 3) Increased number of local producers and manufacturers;
- 4) Protection and promotion of the livelihood and welfare of salt farmers;
- 5) Efficient delivery of support services;
- 6) Preservation of local and traditional production techniques; and
- 7) Promotion and development of marketing agenda for Philippine artisanal salt.

As a cure to the original law, which has inadvertently resulted in the decline of our local salt industry, the Bill mandates that local producers and manufacturers of food-grade salt shall be encouraged, and not required, to iodize their salt production. Towards this end, the government shall extend all the necessary technology transfer, capital, and support services. Meanwhile, all importers, traders, and distributors of imported food-grade salt shall still be required to comply with the iodization standards set under the ASIN law. The DA and the BFAR shall ensure that, despite importation, the Plan shall give preferential attention to local salt producers and manufacturers.

The passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

⁵ The Global Environment Facility, *The sea is the future: expanding coastal and marine protection in the Philippines*, Published on 26 June 2020, Available at <https://www.thegef.org/news/sea-future-expanding-coastal-and-marine-protection-philippines#> (Accessed on 10 September 2022).

⁶ Manila Times, *More nails for the salt sector's coffin*, Published on 4 September 2022, Available at <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/09/04/opinion/columns/more-nails-for-the-salt-sectors-coffin/1857100> (Accessed on 10 September 2022).



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

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

Senate Bill No. 1450

Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

AN ACT
PROMOTING AND REVITALIZING THE SALT INDUSTRY OF THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8172, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT FOR SALT IODIZATION NATIONWIDE (ASIN)," PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Salt Industry
2 *Development and Revitalization Act*”
3

4 **SEC. 2.** Section 3 of R.A. No. 8172 or “An Act for Salt Iodization Nationwide
5 (ASIN)” is hereby amended, to read as follows:
6

7 “SEC. 3. *Purposes.* – The purposes of this Act are to:
8

9 a) x x x;

10 b) [~~require all~~] ENCOURAGE LOCAL producers AND []
11 manufacturers of food-grade salt to iodize the salt that they produce AND
12 [] manufacture [, import, trade or distribute];
13
14

15 c) require the Department of Health (DOH) to undertake iodization
16 program for its [~~Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD)~~] FOOD AND DRUG
17 ADMINISTRATION (FDA), to set and enforce standards for food-grade
18 iodized salt and to monitor compliance thereof by the food-grade salt
19 manufacturers;
20

21 x x x

22 f) direct the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)[, in
23 collaboration with the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center
24 (TLRC),] to initiate, promote, and cause the transfer of technology for salt
25 iodization;
26

27 x x x
28
29

1 j) REQUIRE ALL IMPORTERS, TRADERS, AND
2 DISTRIBUTORS OF IMPORTED FOOD-GRADE SALT TO COMPLY
3 WITH THE IODIZATION STANDARDS SET UNDER THIS ACT; AND
4

5 k) DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA),
6 BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES (BFAR),
7 DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI), DEPARTMENT OF
8 LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE), AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
9 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DOST) TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO
10 SALT FARMERS, REVITALIZE THE LOCAL SALT INDUSTRY, AND
11 ENSURE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR AQUATIC
12 RESOURCES."
13

14 **SEC. 3.** Section 4 of R.A. No. 8172 is hereby amended, to read as follows:
15

16 "SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following
17 terms shall mean:
18

19 x x x
20

21 h) *LOCAL PRODUCER OR Manufacturer* – [one who produces,
22 ~~imports, trades, and distributes salt~~] A PERSON, CORPORATION, OR
23 ASSOCIATION THAT TRANSFORMS RAW MATERIALS OR
24 COMPONENTS, BY HAND OR BY MACHINE, INTO SALT, AND
25 TRADES AND DISTRIBUTES SAID PRODUCT. LOCAL SALT
26 PRODUCERS OR MANUFACTURERS ARE CATEGORIZED AS
27 FOLLOWS:
28

29 1. SUBSISTENCE PRODUCER/MANUFACTURER – A
30 PERSON OR ASSOCIATION ENGAGED IN THE PRODUCTION,
31 TRADE, AND DISTRIBUTION OF SALT NOT EXCEEDING TWO
32 METRIC TONS (2 M.T.) PER YEAR.
33

34 2. SMALL PRODUCER/MANUFACTURER – A PERSON,
35 CORPORATION, OR ASSOCIATION ENGAGED IN THE
36 PRODUCTION, TRADE, AND DISTRIBUTION OF SALT
37 RANGING FROM MORE THAN TWO METRIC TONS (2 MT) TO
38 THREE METRIC TONS (3 MT) PER YEAR.
39

40 3. MEDIUM PRODUCER/MANUFACTURER – A
41 PERSON, CORPORATION, OR ASSOCIATION ENGAGED IN
42 THE PRODUCTION, TRADE, AND DISTRIBUTION OF SALT
43 RANGING FROM MORE THAN THREE METRIC TONS (3 MT) TO
44 TWO THOUSAND METRIC TONS (2,000 MT) PER YEAR.
45

46 4. LARGE PRODUCER/MANUFACTURER – A PERSON,
47 CORPORATION, OR ASSOCIATION ENGAGED IN THE
48 PRODUCTION, TRADE, AND DISTRIBUTION OF SALT
49 EXCEEDING TWO THOUSAND METRIC TONS (2,000 MT) PER
50 YEAR.
51

52 THE BFAR SHALL MAINTAIN A REGISTRY OF ALL LOCAL
53 PRODUCERS OR MANUFACTURERS IN EVERY PROVINCE.
54 THE SAME LIST SHALL BE PROVIDED TO THE FOOD AND
55 DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) FOR THE MONITORING OF
56 IODIZATION EFFORTS.
57

1 i) [~~Subsistence producer/manufacturer — one who produces,~~
2 ~~trades in, or distributes salt not exceeding two metric tons (2 m.t.) of salt~~
3 ~~per year.]~~
4

5 j) [~~Small producer/manufacturer — one who produces, trades in,~~
6 ~~or distributes salt ranging from more than two metric tons (2 m.t.) to three~~
7 ~~metric tons (3 m.t.) per year.]~~
8

9 k) [~~Medium producer/manufacturer — one who produces, trades~~
10 ~~in, or distributes salt ranging from more than three metric tons (3 m.t.) to~~
11 ~~two thousand metric tons (2,000 m.t.) per year.]~~
12

13 l) [~~Large producer/manufacturer - one who produces, trades in,~~
14 ~~or distributes salt exceeding two thousand metric tons (2,000 m.t.) per~~
15 ~~year.]~~
16

17 i) **SALT IMPORTER, TRADER, AND DISTRIBUTOR** – REFERS
18 TO A PERSON, CORPORATION, OR ASSOCIATION ENGAGED IN
19 THE IMPORTATION, TRADE, AND/OR DISTRIBUTION OF IMPORTED
20 SALT. THE FDA SHALL MAINTAIN A REGISTRY FOR THE
21 MONITORING OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE SALT IODIZATION
22 PROGRAM. THE SAME LIST SHALL BE SUBMITTED BY THE FDA TO
23 THE BFAR FOR THE PROPER MONITORING OF THE ENTIRE SALT
24 INDUSTRY.
25

26 j) **AQUATIC RESOURCES** – INCLUDE FISH, ALL OTHER
27 AQUATIC FLORA AND FAUNA AND OTHER LIVING RESOURCES OF
28 THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO,
29 SALT AND CORALS.
30

31 k) **ILOCANO COOKED SALT** – REFERS TO SALT PRODUCED
32 IN THE ILOCOS REGION AND OTHER PROVINCES IN NORTHERN
33 LUZON, WHICH IS PART OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE
34 ILOCANO PEOPLE.
35

36 l) **LOCAL FILIPINO SEA SALT** – ALSO REFERRED TO AS
37 'SOLAR SALT' AND 'TAKAL SALT,' IS A LOCALLY-PRODUCED SEA
38 SALT BY SOLAR EVAPORATION OF SEA WATER INTO BRINE.
39

40 m) **PHILIPPINE ARTISANAL SALT** – REFERS TO LOCAL SALTS
41 WHICH USE DIFFERENT AND TRADITIONAL PRODUCTION
42 TECHNIQUES. THIS INCLUDES *ASIN TIBUOK* PRODUCED IN
43 BOHOL, *DULDUL* SALT MADE IN GUIMARAS, *ASIN SA BUY-O* OF
44 ZAMBALES, AND *SUGPO ASIN* OF PANGASINAN, AMONG OTHERS.
45

46 **SEC. 4.** Section 6 of the same Act is hereby amended, to read as follows:
47

48 "SEC. 6. *Support to the Salt Industry.* – TO REVITALIZE THE SALT
49 INDUSTRY AND SUPPORT SUBSISTENCE AND SMALL SALT
50 FARMERS/PRODUCERS/MANUFACTURERS, THERE IS HEREBY
51 CREATED A SALT INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND
52 REVITALIZATION PROGRAM UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF
53 AGRICULTURE.
54

55 THE BFAR SHALL PREPARE THE SALT INDUSTRY PLAN FOR
56 THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM, CONSISTING OF
57 POLICY DIRECTIONS, STRATEGIC ACTION POINTS, AND

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MEASURABLE TARGETS, CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.

IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS FUNCTIONS AND IN THE PREPARATION OF THE PLAN, THE DA AND THE BFAR SHALL CONSULT WITH LOCAL SALT PRODUCERS AND MANUFACTURERS, IMPORTERS, TRADERS, AND DISTRIBUTORS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, AND CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI), THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DOST), THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR), THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF), AND THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA).

IN THE FORMULATION OF THE PLAN, THE DA AND THE BFAR SHALL BE GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

- A) INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOME OF LOCAL SALT PRODUCERS AND MANUFACTURERS;
- B) REHABILITATION AND MODERNIZATION OF THE SALT INDUSTRY TOWARDS PRODUCTIVITY;
- C) INCREASED NUMBER OF LOCAL PRODUCERS AND MANUFACTURERS;
- D) PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE LIVELIHOOD AND WELFARE OF SALT FARMERS;
- E) EFFICIENT DELIVERY OF SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE SALT INDUSTRY;
- F) PRESERVATION OF LOCAL AND TRADITIONAL SALT PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES; AND
- G) PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MARKETING AGENDA FOR PHILIPPINE ARTISANAL SALT.

THE PLAN SHALL INCLUDE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES ON THE IMPORTATION OF SALT: *PROVIDED*, THAT PREFERENTIAL ATTENTION SHALL BE GIVEN TO LOCAL SALT FARMERS, PRODUCERS, AND MANUFACTURERS.

THE PLAN SHALL ALSO INCLUDE A SYSTEM OF INCENTIVES FOR LOCAL PRODUCERS AND MANUFACTURERS TO ENCOURAGE THE PRODUCTION AND MANUFACTURE OF SALT WITH APPROPRIATE IODINE CONTENT.

WITHIN NINETY (90) DAYS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, THE DA SHALL SUBMIT THE PLAN TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR APPROVAL.

THE DA AND THE BFAR SHALL ENSURE THAT THE SALT INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION PROGRAM IS

1 CONSISTENT WITH THE SALT IODIZATION EFFORTS OF
2 GOVERNMENT. The following agencies and institutions shall support
3 the salt iodization program through their respective internal programs.
4

5 a) The DTI is hereby required to assist and support local salt
6 producers/manufacturers in upgrading their production
7 technologies to include iodization [by helping them obtain soft loans
8 and financial assistance for the procurement of salt iodization
9 machines, packaging equipment and technology fortificant, and] by
10 ensuring systematic distribution of the iodized salt in the market;
11

12 x x x

13
14 C) x x x; [and]

15
16 D) x x x[.];
17

18 E) THE DTI, THROUGH THE SMALL BUSINESS CORPORATION,
19 THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES (LBP), AND THE
20 DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES (DBP) SHALL
21 PROVIDE SOFT LOANS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO
22 QUALIFIED SUBSISTENCE, SMALL, AND MEDIUM
23 PRODUCERS AND MANUFACTURERS FOR THE
24 PROCUREMENT OF SALT IODIZATION MACHINES,
25 PACKAGING EQUIPMENT, TECHNOLOGY FORTIFICANT, AND
26 SUCH OTHER PURPOSES THAT WILL FACILITATE THE
27 GROWTH AND RECOVERY OF THE SALT INDUSTRY; AND
28

29 F) THE DOLE AND THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS
30 DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY SHALL DETERMINE AND
31 PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT,
32 TRAINING, AND EMPLOYMENT NEEDS OF WORKERS IN THE
33 SALT INDUSTRY.
34

35 x x x”

36
37 **SEC. 5.** A new Section 7 is hereby inserted after the amended Section 6 of the
38 same Act, to read as follows:
39

40 “SEC. 7. *SALT INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT FUND.* – THE AMOUNT
41 NECESSARY FOR THE INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SALT
42 INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION PROGRAM SHALL
43 BE CHARGED TO THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR’S APPROPRIATIONS,
44 IN CASE THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (GAA) WAS
45 APPROVED BEFORE THIS LAW IS ENACTED: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE
46 AMOUNT SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS
47 (P500,000,000.00) AND SHALL THEREAFTER BE INCLUDED IN
48 SUBSEQUENT GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACTS.
49

50 THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED SHALL BE RELEASED DIRECTLY TO
51 THE IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES, BASED ON THE OBJECTIVES OF THE
52 SALT INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION PLAN.”
53

54 **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations,
55 rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with
56 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.
57

1 **SEC. 7. Separability Clause.** – If, for any reason, any part, section, or provision of
2 this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected shall
3 continue to be in full force and effect.

4

5 **SEC. 8. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
6 in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,