

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

*22 NOV 28 P 4 :02

SENATE

RECEIVED BY:



S. No. 1552

Introduced by Senator MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT
OF A VIBRANT BAMBOO INDUSTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING
FOR ITS SCIENTIFIC PROPAGATION AND SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION,
CREATING THE NATIONAL BAMBOO COUNCIL OF THE PHILIPPINES
(NBCP), ALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Philippines, the diminishing availability of wood resources has become widespread that it became a national issue, requiring the development of substitute materials. Bamboo has been seen as a perfect alternative for wood since it is a significant lumber wood alternative product. It is extensively grown throughout the country and has a significant economic and cultural impact. It is a nutritious vegetable that is also used for construction, crafts, flooring, roofing, panels, boards, veneer, textiles, oil, gas, and charcoal for fuel and as a superior natural absorbent. In comparison to other hardwoods, bamboo takes a lot less time to reach its full potential and is less expensive to cultivate.

The bamboo industry is now prospering in Asia and is swiftly expanding to Africa and America. In a research published by the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan titled Bamboo Biodiversity, it discussed that bamboo is a significant global commodity which supports a worldwide trade amounting to much more than US\$2.5 billion annually. Global trade, however, is just a small portion compared to household

use of bamboo that make up the majority of at least 80% of the overall usage.

In a study by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD), the research paper wrote that the Philippines is 6th among the largest exporters of bamboo in the world. The total area of bamboo stands in the Philippines ranges from 39,000-53,000 ha, mainly naturally growing sporadically or in patches in backyards and riverbanks in forest lands and some private lands and rarely in pure commercial stands. The potential production from these areas of bamboo stands has been estimated at an average of 36 million culms per year. There are 48 varieties of native and introduced bamboo, which are found everywhere from the coast to the highlands. 11 of these species are highly valuable economically. However, due of inadequate development in their propagation and management, and differences in approaches employed in its utilization, the bamboo's commercial and ecological potentials have not been completely realized.

Ang pambihirang potensyal ng kawayan sa Pilipinas ay kailangang pangasiwaan at idirekta nang maayos. Sa pamamagitan ng ating panukalanag batas, ating pagsasamahin ang iba't ibang pamamaraan sa paggamit ng kawayan upang lalo pang isulong ang kaunlaran sa larangan ng industriya, sining at kultura, at pangangalaga sa kalikasan upang makapagbigay ng pinakamahusay na benepisyong para sa kapakanan ng mga Pilipino.

By providing a framework for the promotion and support the development of the bamboo industry. This bill seeks to institutionalize the National Bamboo Council of the Philippines and establish an agency that can effectively develop the bamboo industry to generate employment, help the bamboo sector capture a greater market, promote environmental sustainability and help mitigate the impacts of climate change, and assist the government in achieving inclusive economic growth.

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


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

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1 **AN ACT**
2 **ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT**
3 **OF A VIBRANT BAMBOO INDUSTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING**
4 **FOR ITS SCIENTIFIC PROPAGATION AND SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION,**
5 **CREATING THE NATIONAL BAMBOO COUNCIL OF THE PHILIPPINES**
6 **(NBCP), ALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

7 SECTION 1. *Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "Bamboo Industry
8 Development Act of 2022".

9 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is the policy of the State to promote and
10 support the development of the bamboo industry as a sustainable resource and
11 employment generator. The State shall help communities and other stakeholders
12 especially in the rural areas to collaborate for the mitigation of the impacts of climate
13 change and promotion of sustainable environment and natural resources, economic
14 prosperity, inclusive growth and reduction of poverty.

15 SECTION 3. *Objectives.* — The objectives of this Act are as follows:

- 16 1. Promote the Philippine bamboo industry by providing an institution to
17 implement the sustainable management of natural resources through
18 resource conservation, protection, and productivity enhancement;
19 2. Prepare and accomplish bamboo industry development program;

- 1 3. Provide incentives to investors in the establishment of bamboo plantations
2 and processing plants; and
- 3 4. Establish regional, provincial and municipal councils that will administer their
4 own bamboo industry development programs that shall rehabilitate all the
5 remaining unproductive, denuded and degraded forestlands as well as to
6 provide livelihood to local farmers and help boost our economy.

7 SECTION 4. *National Bamboo Council of the Philippines.* — The National
8 Bamboo Council of the Philippines (NBCP) is hereby created, replacing the Philippine
9 Bamboo Industry Development Council (PBIDC) organized under Executive Order No.
10 879, s. 2010. The National Bamboo Council of the Philippine (NBCP), hereinafter
11 referred to as the Council, shall be under the Office of the President.

12 Where certain functions are declared redundant on account of the
13 reorganization, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) shall provide for the
14 reassignment, insofar as practicable, of affected employees to similar positions within
15 the Council and its attached offices, taking into consideration their skills and
16 experience, without loss of seniority or other rights and privileges. In any case, all
17 relevant laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations concerning the rights
18 of government employees in the reorganization of an office shall be respected.

19 SECTION 5. *Powers and Functions of the Council.* — The National Bamboo
20 Council of the Philippine shall have the following functions:

- 21 a. Implement a comprehensive national bamboo industry development program;
- 22 b. Establish and organize regional, provincial and municipal councils that will
23 administer their own local bamboo industry development programs;
- 24 c. Consult with bamboo farmers, bamboo manufacturers, and the bamboo
25 processors' associations, including those involved in resource conservation,
26 protection, and productivity enhancement of bamboo;
- 27 d. Coordinate activities to assure that efforts of bamboo farmers, bamboo
28 manufacturers, and the bamboo processors' associations, and others in the
29 public and private sector, are effective and complementary;

- 1 e. Develop a coordinated study and strategy to address the policy and
2 technological problems, share information and resources for possible solutions,
3 and avoid duplication of effort by and within public and private entities;
- 4 f. Generate public awareness of and support for these activities;
- 5 g. Undertake studies on issues of resource ownership, naturally regenerated and
6 planted areas, growing stock, biomass, species biodiversity, removals, products
7 and trade as needed, including threats and the efficacy of new technologies,
8 and recommended solutions to improve production;
- 9 h. Fund projects such as trainings on bamboo resource conservation, protection,
10 and productivity enhancement, and preparation and implementation of local
11 bamboo industry development programs; and
- 12 i. Provide incentives to investors in the establishment of bamboo plantations and
13 processing plants;
- 14 j. Accept grants, donations, and contributions from local and international donors
15 and such similar sources of funds for the implementation of the provisions of
16 this Act, subject to the usual budget, accounting, and auditing rules and
17 regulations;
- 18 k. Prescribe the procedures for the exercise of its powers and functions as well as
19 the performance of its duties and responsibilities;
- 20 l. Determine the Council's organizational structure and staffing pattern and
21 appoint officers and employees of the Council in accordance with Civil Service
22 laws, rules and regulations; and
- 23 m. Acquire, manage, and hold such real and personal property as may be
24 necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of this Act.

25 SECTION 6. *Composition.* — The Council shall be composed of a Chairperson
26 and thirteen (13) members, six (6) of whom shall be regular members, while the other
27 seven (7) members shall be in an *ex-officio* capacity: Provided, That the Chairperson
28 and the regular members shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines.

1 The seven (7) members who shall be *ex-officio* members of the Council are the
2 following:

- 3 a. Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
- 4 b. Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA);
- 5 c. Secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR);
- 6 d. Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
- 7 e. Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
- 8 f. Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- 9 g. Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);

10 The six (6) regular members shall be as follows:

- 11 a. One (1) Representative from a Non-Government Organization;
- 12 b. One (1) Representative from the academe;
- 13 c. One (1) Representative from a reputable private industry organization;
- 14 d. One (1) Representative from the bamboo farmers;
- 15 e. One (1) Representative from the bamboo manufacturers, and
- 16 f. One (1) Representative from the bamboo processors' associations.

17 The Council members from the different departments may designate their
18 respective alternates who shall be at least Assistant Secretary in rank and whose
19 designation shall be on a permanent capacity and their acts shall be considered the
20 acts of their principals.

21 The Council shall regularly meet at least once a month or as often as necessary
22 at the call of the Chairperson or a majority of the members. A simple majority of the
23 members of the Council shall constitute a quorum to do business.

1 SECTION 7. *Term of Office.* — The Chairperson and the six (6) regular members
2 shall hold office for a term of three (3) years unless sooner removed by the President:
3 Provided, that they shall be eligible for reappointment after the expiration of their
4 respective terms: Provided, further, that no Chairperson or regular member shall serve
5 for more than two (2) consecutive terms. If the Chairperson or member fails to
6 complete his/her term, the person appointed to fill the vacancy shall serve only for
7 the unexpired portion of the vacated term whom he/she succeeds: Provided, finally,
8 that such service of the unexpired portion shall not be counted as a term.

9 SECTION 8. The Chairperson. — The Chairperson shall be the Chief Executive
10 Officer and shall exercise overall administrative supervision to ensure the effective and
11 efficient implementation of the policies laid down by the Council.

12 The Chairperson shall have the following functions:

- 13 a. Formulate the Bamboo Industry Development Program for approval of the
14 Council;
- 15 b. Execute and administer the policies, plans and programs approved by the
16 Council;
- 17 c. Direct and supervise the operations and internal affairs of the Council;
- 18 d. Establish the internal organization and administrative procedures of the
19 Council;
- 20 e. Establish and manage a data and information system on the bamboo industry
21 and provide such data and information upon request by the stakeholders;
- 22 f. Generate funds and resources for the implementation of the Bamboo Industry
23 Development Program and for other purposes that will promote the bamboo
24 industry;
- 25 g. Receive donations and apply for loans from international sources for
26 implementation of programs of the industry;

- 1 h. Prepare the annual budget of the Secretariat and the Council for the approval
2 of the Council and for inclusion in the General Appropriations Act;
- 3 i. Recommend to the Council the appointment, transfer or detail, suspension,
4 dismissal for cause of its subordinate officials and employees; and
- 5 j. Such other functions which the Council may assign from time to time.

6 SECTION 9. *The Secretariat.* — The Chairperson shall be assisted by a Technical
7 Working Group which will serve as the Secretariat headed by the Executive Director.
8 The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Council upon the recommendation
9 of the Chairperson. The Executive Director shall be coterminous with the Chairperson
10 unless sooner removed for cause.

11 The Secretariat shall consist of two divisions, a Technical Division and an
12 Administrative Division. The composition of the two divisions shall be prepared by the
13 Chairperson and approved by the Council. The personnel complements of the two
14 divisions shall follow the Civil Service rules and regulation including the salary ranges
15 of the various levels of the personnel.

16 The Secretariat shall be responsible for engaging in activities to carry out the
17 objectives described in Section 3 of this Act including —

- 18 a. Managing and facilitating programs for bamboo farmers, product
19 manufacturers and processor's associations;
- 20 b. Coordinating with the agencies and officials of Local Government Units (LGU)
21 and the National Government;
- 22 c. Advising the Chairperson on issues relating to the mission of the Council;
- 23 d. Ensuring that the plans of the Council are updated to address issues relating to
24 the implementation of the bamboo industry development program in
25 coordination with the officials of the LGU responsible for these programs;

- 1 e. Engaging in external relations with stakeholders and coordinating external
2 partnerships to share best practices, provide mentorship, and offer technical
3 assistance;
- 4 f. Facilitating interagency program coordination and developing interagency tools
5 for the promotion of existing programs and resources;
- 6 g. Creating resources that identify common local best practices for navigating local
7 policies;
- 8 h. Reviewing and improving bamboo farm enterprise development programs that
9 provide information about financial literacy, business planning, and food safety
10 record keeping;
- 11 i. Coordinating networks of bamboo farms and facilitating connections to
12 manufacturers and processors, in partnership with the Department of Trade
13 and Industry; and
- 14 j. Collaborating with other national agencies that use good agricultural practices
15 on-site for efficient production or infrastructure.

16 SECTION 9. *Establishment of Local Bamboo Councils and Bamboo Development*
17 *Programs.* — To carry out the above-declared policy, there shall be established in all
18 provinces, cities, municipalities, and other strategic areas a local Bamboo Council,
19 which shall be community-based and maintained by local government units (LGUs)
20 and a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations
21 (CSO) or community-based organizations (CBOs) and state universities and colleges
22 (SUCs). It shall formulate and implement their respective local Bamboo Industry
23 Development Programs within a year from the enactment of this Law.

24 The local Bamboo Council shall be linked to the regional offices of the
25 Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Department of Agriculture (DA) for
26 coordination and technical supervision, and to the National Bamboo Council of the
27 Philippines.

1 SECTION 10. *Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Program.* — The
2 Council shall prepare the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Program. It shall
3 convene and consult with stakeholders in the bamboo industry in the country. The
4 program shall contain provisions on the following:

- 5 1. Bamboo resource conservation, protection, and productivity enhancement;
- 6 2. Provision of incentives to investors in the establishment of bamboo
7 plantations and processing plants;
- 8 3. Establishment of local Bamboo Industry Development councils;
- 9 4. Rehabilitation of all the remaining unproductive, denuded and degraded
10 forestlands;
- 11 5. Provision of assistance and opportunities to local bamboo farmers and
12 boosting of the economy into the preparation of the study.

13 The preparation of the program shall be in coordination with the Department
14 of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian
15 Reform (DAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR),
16 Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Interior and Local
17 Government (DILG), and Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

18 SECTION 11. *Farm Cluster Program.* — For purposes of this Act, the farm
19 clustering program shall be implemented.

20 Farms, including those owned by agrarian reform recipients, shall be comprised
21 in the Farm and Fisheries Clustering and Consolidation (F2C2) Program or the
22 Bayanihan Agri Clusters (BACs) of the agriculture department. Small farms must be
23 combined into one bigger farm with a minimum area of thirty (30) hectares and within
24 a two-kilometer radius.

25 To take advantage of the economies of scale in the production of bamboo, so
26 that the operations in the small farms are coordinated and put into place to ensure
27 the effective use of farm machinery and equipment, the deployment of workers, the
28 purchase of inputs in bulk, financing, and other operational advantages, as well as
29 recognition by bamboo processors and product manufacturers, government financial

1 institutions, and private investors, but the ownership of each small farm remains with
2 the small farm owner.

3 The cluster farm and its members will receive common service facilities from
4 the Council, the DTI, the DA, and other concerned government agencies, including
5 farm equipment and implements, grants or start-up funding for necessary production
6 inputs, technology adoption, livelihood and skills training, and other development
7 activities.

8 SECTION 12. *Farm Support Program.* — The Council must provide a support
9 program for additional farms that are not qualified for the Farm Clustering Program,
10 which must, among other things, comprise the following:

11 a. Socialized Credit — socialized credit shall be made available to bamboo farmers
12 and their cooperatives and associations, and micro and small-scale enterprises,
13 through the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF) Lending
14 Program to increase productivity of bamboo farmers by providing the necessary
15 credit for the acquisition and establishment of production, postharvest, and
16 processing machineries, equipment and facilities, farm inputs and
17 improvement.

18 The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) shall manage the credit facility funded
19 out of the ACEF: Provided, That the loans shall be available to bamboo farmers
20 duly registered in the Registry System for the Basic Sectors in Agriculture
21 (RSBSA): Provided, further, That the eligibility requirements are met by the
22 farmers: Provided, finally, That farmers cannot be granted another loan until
23 the loan is fully paid.

24 Farmers may agree to any form of payment with the Farm Clusters or Local
25 Council for their bamboo in order to guarantee quick payment of farmers and
26 safeguard their revenue from the bamboo.

27 b. Farm Management, Technical Assistance and Professional Services – For the
28 purpose of providing farm management, technical assistance, and professional
29 services to these farms, the Council, the DTI, the DA, the DAR, the DENR, the

1 DOST, the DILG, the DOLE, the Technical Education and Skills Development
2 Authority (TESDA), state universities and colleges (SUCs), and other concerned
3 private and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) shall develop and
4 implement a program for the deployment of agricultural engineers,
5 agriculturists, and farm technicians.

6 c. Human Resources Development – All stakeholders in the bamboo industry shall
7 contribute to the development of a sustainable human resource for the
8 industry. The Council, in collaboration with the DTI, the DOLE, the DA, the DAR,
9 TESDA, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), the Commission on
10 Higher Education and the private sector, shall formulate and implement a
11 Human Resources Development (HRD) Master Plan for the bamboo industry
12 which shall include, but not limited to, the following:

- 13 1. Capacity building, skills trainings, institutional strengthening of the
14 bamboo industry workers, small farmers and agrarian reform
15 beneficiaries and their organizations to actively contribute in productivity
16 and competitiveness;
- 17 2. Scholarship program for the underprivileged but deserving college and
18 post graduate students who are taking up courses in relevant fields of
19 discipline in SUCs which have programs in agriculture, agricultural
20 engineering and mechanics, bamboo architecture and engineering and
21 chemical engineering/technology; and for vocational courses and skills
22 development for farmers and farm technicians, and skilled workers in
23 bamboo farms, and bamboo processing and manufacturing plants.
- 24 3. Conduct of capability training or attendance to local or international
25 trainings and seminars by bamboo farmers, processors and
26 manufacturers, including the NBCP technical personnel on the latest
27 technologies related to bamboo farming, processing, manufacturing of
28 its by-products;
- 29 4. Formulation and implementation of competency standards and training
30 regulations for technical vocational education and training for the
31 bamboo industry by the TESDA; and

- 1 5. Upgrading of facilities, faculty development and strengthening of the on-
2 the-job training program of agri-based higher education institutions in
3 bamboo areas towards the production of highly employable and globally
4 competitive graduates needed by the bamboo industry.

5 SECTION 12. *Farm Mechanization Program.* — The use of proper agricultural
6 machinery and equipment is encouraged and required for the effective planting,
7 cultivation, care and maintenance, harvesting, and handling of bamboo. This includes
8 cluster farms and farms of agrarian reform beneficiaries.

9 In accordance with the requirements of Republic Act No. 10601, also known as
10 the "Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization (AFMech) Law," the NBCP, the DA, and
11 the DAR, in collaboration with local government units (LGUs), shall:

- 12 a. Introduce or expand the use of machineries for the different stages of bamboo
13 farming;
14 b. Formulate and implement a Bamboo Farm Mechanization Program at the
15 municipal levels and cluster farms; and
16 c. Support the creation, management, and upkeep of Agri-Fisheries Machinery
17 and Equipment Service Centers, as specified in Section 9 of Republic Act No.
18 10601, in bamboo areas and, for this purpose, provide socialized credit to
19 service centers: Provided, That these service centers shall emphasize the
20 provision of plowing, transplanting, watering, pruning, fertilizing, harvesting
21 and other farm mechanization services to bamboo farms that do not have the
22 capability to purchase or maintain their own machineries and equipment.

23 The socialized credit facility under the Farm Support Program and the Farm
24 Mechanization Program will be managed by the LBP.

25 The rules for managing and using the socialized credit facility will be issued by
26 the Council, the DA, the DAR, and the LBP.

27 SECTION 13. *Bamboo Industry Research and Development and Innovation.* —
28 The Council shall establish and carry out a research, development, and extension
29 program for bamboo farm mechanization and engineering through its research centers

1 in coordination with the Philippine Center for Post-harvest Development and
2 Mechanization (PhilMech), the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), DA Regional
3 Integrated Agricultural Research Centers (RIARC), Regional Research and
4 Development, Extension Network (RRDEN) for Agriculture and Fisheries, Ecosystems
5 Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) of DENR, SUCs, other concerned
6 government agencies, and industry stakeholders.

7 The Council shall develop, enhance, support, and consolidate activities and
8 related technologies for the formulation and implementation of a unified and
9 integrated agriculture research and development plan and programs for the area in
10 which it operates.

11 The NBCP research and development and innovation plans and programs shall
12 include, but not limited to the following:

- 13 a. Research, development and propagation of appropriate, innovative and
14 viable integrated bamboo technologies;
- 15 b. Promotion of developed and viable biodegradable farm wastes and by-
16 products through various extension strategies to accelerate the production,
17 use and distribution of naturally produced fertilizers; and
- 18 c. Environmental impacts, including soil health, soil fertility, and storm
19 /monsoon water runoff and bamboo pest and disease management among
20 others.

21 SECTION 14. *Incentives and Award System.* – The Council shall establish and
22 institutionalize incentives and awards systems for individuals, organizations,
23 associations and companies in the form of financial, technical, marketing and other
24 services and resources as assistance for projects that promotes the Philippine bamboo
25 industry and sustainable management of natural resources through bamboo resource
26 conservation, protection, and productivity enhancement. The availment of the
27 incentives shall be subject to evaluation of NBCP in coordination with or through joint
28 efforts with the concerned agencies implementing the particular incentives availed of.

1 The following incentives shall be provided to investors in plantation
2 development and bamboo processing factories:

- 3 a. Exception from taxes and duties subject to the provisions of Article 62 of
4 Republic Act 6938 or the Cooperative Code of the Philippines;
- 5 b. Exemption from the value-added tax in accordance with Section 103 of the
6 National Internal Revenue Code, as amended;
- 7 c. Exemption from taxes, fees and charges under Title One of Book Two of the
8 Local Government Code of 1991 in accordance with Section 133(n) of the said
9 Code;
- 10 d. Exemption from the payment of duties on the importation of agricultural
11 equipment, machinery and implements as provided under Republic Act 8435,
12 otherwise known as the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act as
13 amended by Republic Act 9281;
- 14 e. Zero-rated value-added tax (VAT) on transactions involving
15 the sale/purchase of organic farm inputs;
- 16 f. Provision of preferential rates and special window to bamboo farmers
17 g. producers, processors, and exporters by the Land Bank of the Philippines;
- 18 h. Credit, insurance, and financing services under Republic Act 8435 otherwise
19 known as the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act and Republic Act
20 10000 otherwise known as the Agri-Agra Reform Credit Act of 2009;
- 21 i. Incentives and benefits under Republic Act 9178 otherwise known as the
22 Barangay Micro Business Enterprises (BMBE) Act of 2002 for bamboo business
23 entity or enterprise whose total assets including those arising from loans but
24 exclusive of the land on which that particular business entity's office, plant and
25 equipment are situated, are not more than Three Million Pesos
26 (P3,000,000.00);

- 1 j. Bamboo business entity or enterprise to be registered under the Board of
2 Investments (BOI) shall be entitled to the existing pertinent fiscal incentives as
3 provided by the Board of Investments or those provided under Executive Order
4 No. 226, as amended, otherwise known as the Omnibus Investment Code of
5 1987;
- 6 k. Exemption from payment of rent for the use of government lands for
7 commercial bamboo plantation for the first plantation for the first 5 years or
8 when the plantation owner starts to harvest his plantation;
- 9 l. Forest plantations in private lands shall not require a cutting permit for
10 harvesting nor shall it need a transport permit, for as long as the plantation is
11 registered with the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office
12 (CENRO) of the DENR. All that is required is for the plantation owner to inform
13 the CENRO that the plantations will be harvested in a given date, including the
14 estimated volume that will be harvested. Inventory of the plantation prior to
15 harvest shall not be required. CENROs are obligated to approve and enter into
16 their book of registry, application for registration for plantations in private
17 lands;
- 18 m. Exemption from payment of forest charges and other fees or taxes that local
19 government units may impose;
- 20 n. Bamboo plantation from public and private lands shall not be subjected to
21 inspection in check points;
- 22 o. Plantation developers can access development loans from the public financial
23 institutions;
- 24 p. Insurance coverage of plantations and plantation development equipment by
25 the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation;
- 26 q. Tax-free importation of plantation development equipment including tree
27 nursery facilities;

- 1 r. Expenses incurred shall be allowed as deductible expenses for income tax
2 purposes, subject to the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of
3 1997, as amended. Provided, that the deduction shall only apply to the taxable
4 period, when the expenses were incurred;
- 5 s. Expenses incurred in the development and operation of a bamboo plantation
6 prior to the commercial harvest shall be regarded as ordinary and necessary
7 expenses or as capital expenditures;
- 8 t. The Board of Investments (BOI) shall classify bamboo plantations as pioneer
9 and preferred areas of investment under its annual priority plan, subject to
10 pertinent rules and regulations;
- 11 u. The plantation developer shall be given priority to access credit assistance being
12 granted by Government-owned, -controlled and / or - supported financial
13 institutions;
- 14 v. Plantations shall be accepted as collateral for loans in government owned or
15 controlled banks;
- 16 w. For tenured-developer, upon the premature termination of the agreement at
17 no fault of the holder, all depreciable permanent and semi-permanent
18 improvements such as roads, buildings, and nurseries including the planted
19 and standing trees and other forest crops, introduced and to be retained in the
20 area, shall be properly evaluated and the holder shall be entitled to a fair
21 compensation thereof, the amount of which shall be mutually agreed upon by
22 both the Department and the tenure-holder and in case of disagreement
23 between them, by arbitration through a mutually acceptable and impartial third
24 party adjudicator;
- 25 x. Plantation logs, lumber and other finished wood products and plantation -
26 grown non-wood may be exported without restrictions in volume; and
- 27 y. The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) shall include in its
28 annual investment program, the use of forest lands to establish industrial

1 bamboo plantations, and to give first priority in allocating adequate funds, both
2 from external and internal sources.

3 SECTION 11. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation
4 of this act shall be charged against the unexpected contingency fund of the Office of
5 the President, and the existing budget of the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development
6 Council (PBIDC). Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary shall be included in
7 the annual General Appropriations Act.

8 SECTION 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within a year from the
9 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of
10 Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Environment
11 and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Science and Technology (DOST),
12 Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and Department of Labor and
13 Employment (DOLE) in consultation with other concerned government agencies, the
14 academe, the private sector, non-government organizations and concerned
15 stakeholders, shall promulgate and issue the necessary implementing rules and
16 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

17 SECTION 13. *Separability Clause.* — In the event that any part, section or
18 provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a competent court,
19 the remaining provisions thereby shall remain valid and in full force and effect as if
20 the sections or provisions so annulled or voided had never been incorporated herein.

21 SECTION 14. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, executive orders,
22 issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof not consistent with the provisions of
23 this Act are hereby repealed or modified and/or superseded as case may be by this
24 Act accordingly.

25 SECTION 15. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
26 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
27 circulation.

28 *Approved,*