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**SENATE**  
**Senate Bill No. 1685**

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by: **Senator Raffy T. Tulfo**

**AN ACT  
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**

Salt farming was previously one of the major industries in our country. Until the early 1990s, the Philippines had only imported 15% of our salt supply since our local salt farmers could mostly comply with the country's salt requirement. Majority of the salt farms were then adjacent to Manila Bay such as those situated in Pangasinan, Cavite, and Mindoro.

In order to address the micronutrient malnutrition of Filipinos particularly their iodine deficiency disorders, Republic Act 8172 or otherwise known as an "Act for Salt Iodization Nationwide (ASIN LAW) " was signed into law on December 20, 1995 by former President Fidel V. Ramos. Section 3 of RA 8172 states that all producers manufacturers of food-grade salt are required to iodize the salt that they produce, manufacture, import, trade or distribute.

However, 28 years after its implementation, our local salt industry significantly declined since our local salt farmers could not compete with the global market of salt and food products with salt . Our country currently imports 92% to 93% of our salt supply.

This bill seeks to revive and revitalize the local salt industry by establishing a Salt Industry Development and Revitalization Program (SIDRP).

The passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



**Raffy T. Tulfo**  
Senator

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**REVITALIZING THE SALT INDUSTRY OF THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING**  
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**ACT FOR SALT IODIZATION NATIONWIDE (ASIN)," PROVIDING FUNDS**  
**THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 "An act establishing  
2 a Salt Industry Development and Revitalization Program (SIDRP)"  
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  
11           b)     [~~require all~~] ENCOURAGE LOCAL producers AND [/] manufacturers of  
12 food-grade salt to iodize the salt the salt that they produce AND [-]  
13 manufacture [, import, trade or distribute];  
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           x x x

1 f) direct the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) [~~in~~  
2 ~~collaboration with the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC),~~  
3 to initiate, promote, and cause the transfer of technology for salt iodization;

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

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

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

14 "SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean;

15 X X X

16 h) *LOCAL PRODUCER OR Manufacturer* - [~~one who produces, imports, trades,~~  
17 ~~and distributes salt]~~ A PERSON, CORPORATION, OR ASSOCIATION THAT  
18 TRANSFORMS RAW MATERIALS OR COMPONENTS, BY HAND OR BY MACHINE,  
19 INTO SALT, AND TRADES AND DISTRIBUTES SAID PRODUCT. LOCAL SALT  
20 PRODUCERS OR MANUFACTURERS ARE CATEGORIZED AS FOLLOWS:

21 1. SUBSISTENCE PRODUCER/MANUFACTURER - A PERSON OR ASSOCIATION  
22 ENGAGED IN THE PRODUCTION, TRADE, AND DISTRIBUTION OF SALT NOT  
23 EXCEEDING TWO METRIC TONS (2 M.T.) PER YEAR.

24 2. SMALL PRODUCER/MANUFACTURER - A PERSON, CORPORATION, OR  
25 ASSOCIATION ENGAGED IN THE PRODUCTION, TRADE, AND DISTRIBUTION OF  
26 SALT RANGING FROM MORE THAN TWO METRIC TONS (2 MT) TO THREE METRIC  
27 TONS (3 MT) PER YEAR.

28 3. MEDIUM PRODUCER/MANUFACTURER - A PERSON, CORPORATION, OR  
29 ASSOCIATION ENGAGED IN THE PRODUCTION, TRADE, AND DISTRIBUTION OF  
30 SALT RANGING FROM MORE THAN THREE METRIC TONS (3 MT) TO TWO  
31 THOUSAND METRIC TONS (2,000 MT) PER YEAR.

32 4. LARGE PRODUCER/MANUFACTURER - A PERSON, CORPORATION, OR  
33 ASSOCIATION ENGAGED IN THE PRODUCTION, TRADE, AND DISTRIBUTION OF  
34 SALT EXCEEDING TWO THOUSAND METRIC TONS (2,000 MT) PER YEAR.

35 THE BFAR SHALL MAINTAIN A REGISTRY OF ALL LOCAL PRODUCERS OR  
36 MANUFACTURERS IN EVERY PROVINCE. THE SAME LIST SHALL BE PROVIDED TO

1 THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) FOR THE MONITORING OF  
2 IODIZATION EFFORTS.

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

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

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

11  
12 l) ~~[Large producer/manufacturer - one who produces, trades in, or distributes salt~~  
13 ~~exceeding two thousand metric tons (2,000 m.t.) per year.]~~

14 i) *SALT IMPORTER, TRADER, AND DISTRIBUTOR* - REFERS TO A PERSON,  
15 CORPORATION, OR ASSOCIATION ENGAGED IN THE IMPORTATION, TRADE,  
16 AND/OR DISTRIBUTION OF IMPORTED SALT. THE FDA SHALL MAINTAIN A  
17 REGISTRY FOR THE MONITORING OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE SALT IODIZATION  
18 PROGRAM. THE SAME LIST SHALL BE SUBMITTED BY THE FDA TO THE BEAR FOR  
19 THE PROPER MONITORING OF THE ENTIRE SALT INDUSTRY.

20 j) *AQUATIC RESOURCES* - INCLUDE FISH, ALL OTHER AQUATIC FLORA AND  
21 FAUNA AND OTHER LIVING RESOURCES OF THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT,  
22 INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, SALT AND CORALS.

23 k) *ILOCANO COOKED SALT*-REFERS TO SALT PRODUCED IN THE ILOCOS REGION  
24 AND OTHER PROVINCES IN NORTHERN LUZON, WHICH IS PART OF THE  
25 CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE ILOCANO PEOPLE.

26 l) *LOCAL FILIPINO SEA SALT* - ALSO REFERRED TO AS 'SOLAR SALT' AND 'TAKAL  
27 SALT,' IS A LOCALLY-PRODUCED SEA SALT BY SOLAR EVAPORATION OF SEA  
28 WATER INTO BRINE.

29 m) *PHILIPPINE ARTISANAL SALT*-REFERS TO LOCAL SALTS WHICH USE  
30 DIFFERENT AND TRADITIONAL PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES. THIS INCLUDES  
31 *ASIN TIBUOK* PRODUCED IN BOHOL, *DULDUL* SALT MADE IN GUIMARAS, *ASIN*  
32 *SA BUY-O* OF ZAMBALES, AND *SUGPO ASIN* OF PANGASINAN, AMONG OTHERS.



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

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

THE BEAR SHALL PREPARE THE SALT INDUSTRY PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM, CONSISTING OF POLICY DIRECTIONS, STRATEGIC ACTION POINTS, AND 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

1 G) PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MARKETING AGENDA FOR  
2 PHILIPPINE ARTISANAL SALT.

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

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

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

12 THE DA AND THE BFAR SHALL ENSURE THAT THE SALT INDUSTRY  
13 DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION PROGRAM IS CONSISTENT WITH THE  
14 SALT IODIZATION EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENT. The following agencies and  
15 institutions shall support the salt iodization program through their respective  
16 internal programs.

17 a.)The DTI is hereby required to assist and support local salt  
18 producers/manufacturers in upgrading their production technologies to include  
19 iodization [~~by helping them obtain soft loans and financial assistance for the~~  
20 ~~procurement of salt iodization machines, packaging equipment and technology~~  
21 ~~fortificant, and~~] by ensuring systematic distribution of the iodized salt in the  
22 market:

23 **XXX**

24 c.) X X x; [and]

25 d.) x X x [.];

26 e.) THE DTI, THROUGH THE SMALL BUSINESS CORPORATION, THE LAND  
27 BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES (LBP), AND THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE  
28 PHILIPPINES (DBP) SHALL PROVIDE SOFT LOANS AND FINANCIAL  
29 ASSISTANCE TO QUALIFIED SUBSISTENCE, SMALL, AND MEDIUM  
30 PRODUCERS AND MANUFACTURERS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF SALT  
31 IODIZATION MACHINES, PACKAGING EQUIPMENT, TECHNOLOGY  
32 FORTIFICANT, AND SUCH OTHER PURPOSES THAT WILL FACILITATE THE  
33 GROWTH AND RECOVERY OF THE SALT INDUSTRY; AND

34 f.)THE DOLE AND THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT  
35 AUTHORITY SHALL DETERMINE AND PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SKILLS  
36 DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, AND EMPLOYMENT NEEDS OF WORKERS IN THE  
37 SALT INDUSTRY.

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

"**SEC. 7. SALT INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT FUND.** - THE AMOUNT NECESSARY FOR THE INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SALT INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION PROGRAM SHALL BE CHARGED TO THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR'S APPROPRIATIONS, IN CASE THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (GAA) WAS APPROVED BEFORE THIS LAW IS ENACTED: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE AMOUNT SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (P500,000,000.00) AND SHALL THEREAFTER BE INCLUDED IN SUBSEQUENT GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACTS.

THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED SHALL BE RELEASED DIRECTLY TO THE IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES, BASED ON THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SALT INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION PLAN."

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

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

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

**Approved,**