



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6882

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BY REPRESENTATIVES HOFER, TEODORO, GONZALES (N.) AND DE GUZMAN,  
PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2417

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### AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE RUBBER RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

*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 “Philippine  
2 Rubber Research and Training Center Act of 2009”.

3           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall, among others,  
4 develop self-reliant industries controlled by Filipinos (Section 19, Article II of  
5 the Constitution), encourage investments and provide incentives to private  
6 enterprises (Section 20, Article II), promote employment and livelihood  
7 opportunities for the poor (Section 9, Article II), ensure well-balanced ecology  
8 in the use of natural resources for industrial purposes (Section 16, Article II)  
9 and prioritize education and training, particularly in science and technology,  
10 for sustainable development (Section 17, Article II).

11           SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – The creation of the Philippine Rubber Research  
12 and Training Center in Ipil, Province of Zamboanga Sibugay seeks to provide

1 educational and instructional activities designed to enhance the knowledge,  
2 skill and capacities of rubber farmers, producers and processors in increasing  
3 production and income opportunities for the sector. Through focused and  
4 sustained training and development on rubber, the Training Center aims to  
5 improve the quality of life, especially of poor small-holders in rural  
6 communities that depend primarily on the rubber industry.

7 SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following  
8 terms are defined as follows:

9 (a) *Philippine Rubber Research and Training Center* refers to the  
10 Training Center located in Ipil, Province of Zamboanga Sibugay, whose  
11 mandate is to initiate and administer research training and development  
12 programs aimed at improving the quality and productivity of rubber, especially  
13 for the benefit of small-holder rubber producers and processors.

14 (b) *Rubber tree* refers to the robust, perennial crop and the source of  
15 natural rubber, also scientifically known as *Hevea brasilienses*.

16 (c) *Latex* refers to a milky, usually white fluid that is produced by cells  
17 of rubber trees, and is the raw material used in the manufacture of industrial,  
18 automotive and other latex products.

19 (d) *Small-holder rubber producers* refer to individuals, cooperatives or  
20 corporations owning and/or cultivating five (5) hectares or less of rubber  
21 plantation.

22 (e) *Small-holder rubber processors* refer to individuals, cooperatives  
23 or corporations, which maintain and/or operate small-scale processing plants of  
24 finished or semi-finished rubber products, capable of processing not more than  
25 one thousand (1,000) metric tons of rubber annually.

26 (f) *Rubber cooperatives* refer to duly organized and registered  
27 enterprises collectively owned and operated by groups of rubber producers

1 and/or processors who partake of and share among themselves the benefits and  
2 profits of their economic ventures.

3 (g) *Big-holder rubber producers* refer to individuals, cooperatives or  
4 corporations owning and/or cultivating more than five (5) hectares of rubber  
5 plantation.

6 (h) *Big-holder rubber processors* refer to individuals, cooperatives or  
7 corporations, which maintain and/or operate large-scale processing plants of  
8 finished or semi-finished rubber products, capable of processing more than one  
9 thousand (1,000) metric tons of rubber annually.

10 SEC. 5. *Creation of the Philippine Rubber Research and Training*  
11 *Center.* – There is hereby created the Philippine Rubber Research and  
12 Training Center, hereinafter referred to as the Training Center, which shall be  
13 under the control and supervision of the Office of the Undersecretary for  
14 Policy, Planning, Research and Development of the Department of Agriculture  
15 (DA). The Training Center shall be established in Ipil, Province of  
16 Zamboanga Sibugay.

17 SEC. 6. *Powers and Functions of the Training Center.* – The Training  
18 Center shall have the following powers and functions:

19 (a) Develop and undertake training and capacity-building programs for  
20 rubber producers, processors and cooperatives as stakeholders in order to  
21 increase production of quality rubber and raise level of income especially of  
22 poor small-holders;

23 (b) Provide educational and instructional activities designed to  
24 enhance the knowledge, skills and attitudes of stakeholders in engaging in  
25 management, entrepreneurship and livelihood projects;

26 (c) Initiate and/or implement research and development projects on  
27 rubber in order to address technology and policy gaps, ensure the highest

1 standards in production and meet the increasing demands for quality rubber in  
2 both domestic and international trade;

3 (d) Propagate and promote the planting, maintenance, as well as the  
4 wise utilization of rubber trees as source of latex and finished rubber products;

5 (e) Facilitate access of rubber producers and processors, especially of  
6 small-holders to quality rubber tree seedlings, modern production techniques  
7 and other support services from production to marketing of rubber produce;

8 (f) Aid in the establishment of village-based rubber enterprises to  
9 generate livelihood opportunities and improve the general well-being of the  
10 large percentage of workforce in agricultural communities;

11 (g) Promote cooperative development among small-holders and  
12 provide them access to resources, technological know-how, as well as  
13 decision-making process for the enhancement of their rubber enterprises and  
14 the protection of their welfare;

15 (h) Develop its own capacity to formulate training designs and  
16 curricula, as well as hone in-house personnel who provide training services;

17 (i) Monitor and evaluate the implementation of training programs and  
18 projects as well as the progress of beneficiaries in order to ensure that such  
19 undertakings are relevant and useful to the needs of the farming communities,  
20 the rubber industry and the national economy as a whole;

21 (j) Ensure that the programs and activities of the Training Center are  
22 aligned with development efforts of the national government, and networked  
23 with concerned public and private sector organizations; and

24 (k) Enter into memoranda of agreement and receive grants from local  
25 and foreign funding agencies through the Office of the Secretary of DA.

26 *SEC. 7. Composition of the Training Center.* – The Training Center  
27 shall be instituted and administered by the Office of the Undersecretary for  
28 Policy, Planning, Research and Development of DA. The composition of the

1 Training Center shall be determined by the said Office in accordance with the  
2 overall programs and policies on crops development, agriculture  
3 modernization and organizational rationalization of the Department.

4 SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the  
5 provisions of this Act shall be ensured and included in the General  
6 Appropriations Act under the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture of the year  
7 following its enactment into law and thereafter.

8 SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any part, section or provision of this  
9 Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the rest of the provisions shall not  
10 be affected thereby.

11 SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, rules and  
12 regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby  
13 repealed or modified accordingly.

14 SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from  
15 the date of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2)  
16 newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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