


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



23 MAY 15 P2:08

SENATE
S. No. 2185

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA

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

To borrow words from the title of a news article, if we continue to neglect our local salt industry, it would be 'a sin.'¹ Sadly, it appears that such neglect and languishing has been the unintended consequence of a well-intentioned law, Republic Act No. 8172, otherwise known as the 'ASIN.' It was the goal of the Asin Law to prioritize the over-all health of the country, thereby putting premium on iodization in order to address our iodine deficiency rate. And while the iodine deficiency rate did decrease, unfortunately, so did our local production rate.

Since many of our salt farmers could not afford the cost of iodization, they were forced to move on to other industries. Such is a painful irony, that a country that is blessed with so many glorious seas and beaches, with a 36,000-kilometer shoreline, is the same one that is importing majority of its salt supply, able only to produce 20% locally.² In response to this problem, the Department of Agriculture (DA) issued in September of 2022 the implementing guidelines of the Development of Salt Industry

¹ Yvette Tan, "It's a sin to let the local salt industry languish," 21 May 2021. Retrieved from: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/05/21/its-a-sin-to-let-the-local-salt-industry-languish/>, retrieved on 26 February 2023.

² Ibid.

Project, which was allotted a funding of P100-million.³ The aim of the said program is to boost local salt production with the use of modern technology.

While this initiative from the DA is laudable, it is also necessary that this initiative be paired with legislative action. This bill seeks to amend the ASIN Law in order to stimulate the local salt industry through the establishment of a Salt Industry Development and Revitalization Program. The Salt Industry shall be guided by a Salt Industry Development and Revitalization Plan to be crafted by the DA and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). Ultimately, the goal is to institutionalize our support for our local salt producers, without undermining the original intent of the ASIN Law, which is to promote the health of Filipinos.

For these reasons, let us not be guilty of 'a sin' of neglect of our salt farmers, and push for the swift passage of this bill into law.


RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA

³ Jordeene Lagare, "Salt industry revival plan to start with 'profiling' – DA," 16 September 2022. Retrieved from: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1665198/salt-industry-revival-plan-to-start-with-profiling-da>, retrieved on 26 February 2023.

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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 "SEC. 3. Purposes. - The purposes of this Act are to:

7 a) x x x;

8 b) [~~require all~~] **ENCOURAGE LOCAL** producers **AND** [~~f~~] manufacturers of
9 food-grade salt to iodize the salt that they produce **AND** [~~r~~] manufacture [~~r~~
10 ~~import, trade or distribute~~];

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

16 x x x

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

4 x x x

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

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

15
16 Sec. 3. Section 4 of R.A. No. 8172 is hereby amended, to read as follows:

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

19 x x x

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

26 **1. SUBSISTENCE PRODUCER/MANUFACTURER - A PERSON OR**
27 **ASSOCIATION ENGAGED IN THE PRODUCTION, TRADE, AND**
28 **DISTRIBUTION OF SALT NOT EXCEEDING TWO METRIC TONS**
29 **(2 M.T.) PER YEAR.**

30 **2. SMALL PRODUCER/MANUFACTURER - A PERSON,**
31 **CORPORATION, OR ASSOCIATION ENGAGED IN THE**
32 **PRODUCTION, TRADE, AND DISTRIBUTION OF SALT RANGING**

1 FROM MORE THAN TWO METRIC TONS (2 MT) TO THREE
2 METRIC TONS (3 MT) PER YEAR.

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

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

13 THE BFAR SHALL MAINTAIN A REGISTRY OF ALL LOCAL
14 PRODUCERS OR MANUFACTURERS IN EVERY PROVINCE. THE
15 SAME LIST SHALL BE PROVIDED TO THE FOOD AND DRUG
16 ADMINISTRATION (FDA) FOR THE MONITORING OF
17 IODIZATION EFFORTS.

18
19 i) [~~Subsistence producer/manufacturere—one who produces, trades in,~~
20 ~~or distributes salt not exceeding two metric tons (2 m.t.) of salt per~~
21 ~~year.~~]

22 j) [~~Small producer/manufacturere—one who produces, trades in, or~~
23 ~~distributes salt ranging from more than two metric tons (2 m.t.) to three~~
24 ~~metric tons (3 m.t.) per year.~~]

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

28 l) [~~Large producer/manufacturere—one who produces, trades in, or~~
29 ~~distributes salt exceeding two thousand metric tons (2,000 m.t.) per~~
30 ~~year.~~]

31 i) **SALT IMPORTER, TRADER, AND DISTRIBUTOR- REFERS TO A**
32 **PERSON, CORPORATION, OR ASSOCIATION ENGAGED IN THE**

1 **IMPORTATION, TRADE, AND/OR DISTRIBUTION OF IMPORTED**
2 **SALT. THE FDA SHALL MAINTAIN A REGISTRY FOR THE**
3 **MONITORING OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE SALT IODIZATION**
4 **PROGRAM. THE SAME LIST SHALL BE SUBMITTED BY THE FDA**
5 **TO THE BFAR FOR THE PROPER MONITORING OF THE ENTIRE**
6 **SALT INDUSTRY.**

7 **j) AQUATIC RESOURCES - INCLUDE FISH, ALL OTHER AQUATIC**
8 **FLORA AND FAUNA AND OTHER LIVING RESOURCES OF THE**
9 **AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO,**
10 **SALT AND CORALS.**

11 **k) IL OCANO COOKED SALT - REFERS TO SALT PRODUCED IN**
12 **THE ILOCOS REGION AND OTHER PROVINCES IN NORTHERN**
13 **LUZON, WHICH IS PART OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE**
14 **ILOCANO PEOPLE.**

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

18 **m) PHILIPPINE ARTISANAL SALT - REFERS TO LOCAL SAL TS**
19 **WHICH USE DIFFERENT AND TRADITIONAL PRODUCTION**
20 **TECHNIQUES. THIS INCLUDES ASIN TIBUOK PRODUCED IN**
21 **BOHOL, DULDUL SALT MADE IN GUIMARAS, ASIN SA BUY-O OF**
22 **ZAM BALES, AND SUGPO ASIN OF PANGASINAN, AMONG**
23 **OTHERS.**

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

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

30 **THE BFAR SHALL PREPARE THE SALT INDUSTRY PLAN FOR THE**
31 **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM, CONSISTING OF POLICY**

1 **DIRECTIONS, STRATEGIC ACTION POINTS, AND MEASURABLE**
2 **TARGETS, CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.**

3 **IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS FUNCTIONS AND IN THE**
4 **PREPARATION OF THE PLAN, THE DA AND THE B FAR SHALL CONSULT**
5 **WITH LOCAL SALT PRODUCERS AND MANUFACTURERS, IMPORTERS,**
6 **TRADERS, AND DISTRIBUTORS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, CIVIL**
7 **SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, AND CONCERNED GOVERNMENT**
8 **AGENCIES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE DEPARTMENT OF**
9 **HEALTH (DOH) AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES, THE DEPARTMENT OF**
10 **TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI), THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND**
11 **TECHNOLOGY (DOST), THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND**
12 **NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR), THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE**
13 **(DOF), AND THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA).**

14 **IN THE FORMULATION OF THE PLAN, THE DA AND THE B FAR SHALL**
15 **BE GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:**

16 **A) INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOME OF LOCAL**
17 **SALT PRODUCERS AND MANUFACTURERS;**

18 **B) REHABILITATION AND MODERNIZATION OF THE SALT**
19 **INDUSTRY TOWARDS PRODUCTIVITY;**

20 **C) INCREASED NUMBER OF LOCAL PRODUCERS AND**
21 **MANUFACTURERS;**

22 **D) PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE LIVELIHOOD**
23 **AND WELFARE OF SALT FARMERS;**

24 **E) EFFICIENT DELIVERY OF SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE**
25 **SALT INDUSTRY;**

26 **F) PRESERVATION OF LOCAL AND TRADITIONAL SALT**
27 **PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES; AND**

28 **G) PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MARKETING**
29 **AGENDA FOR PHILIPPINE ARTISANAL SALT.**

30 **THE PLAN SHALL INCLUDE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND**
31 **POLICIES ON THE IMPORTATION OF SALT: PROVIDED, THAT**

1 **PREFERENTIAL ATTENTION SHALL BE GIVEN TO LOCAL SALT**
2 **FARMERS, PRODUCERS, AND MANUFACTURERS.**

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

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

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

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

21 x x x

22 C) x x x; [and]

23 D) x x x; [-];

24 **E) THE DTI, THROUGH THE SMALL BUSINESS CORPORATION,**
25 **THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES (LBP), AND THE**
26 **DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES (DBP) SHALL**
27 **PROVIDE SOFT LOANS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO**
28 **QUALIFIED SUBSISTENCE, SMALL, AND MEDIUM PRODUCERS**
29 **AND MANUFACTURERS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF SALT**
30 **IODIZATION MACHINES, PACKAGING EQUIPMENT,**
31 **TECHNOLOGY FORTIFICANT, AND SUCH OTHER PURPOSES**

1 **THAT WILL FACILITATE THE GROWTH AND RECOVERY OF THE**
2 **SALT INDUSTRY; AND**

3 **F) THE DOLE AND THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS**
4 **DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY SHALL DETERMINE AND PROVIDE**
5 **THE NECESSARY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, AND**
6 **EMPLOYMENT NEEDS OF WORKERS IN THE SALT INDUSTRY.**

7 x x x"

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

10 **"SEC. 7. SALT INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT FUND. - THE AMOUNT**
11 **NEEDED FOR THE INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SALT**
12 **INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION PROGRAM SHALL**
13 **BE CHARGED TO THE CURRENT YEAR'S APPROPRIATIONS OF THE DA:**
14 **PROVIDED, THAT THE AMOUNT SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN FIVE**
15 **HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (P500,000,000.00). THEREAFTER, SUCH**
16 **SUMS AS MAY BE NECESSARY FOR ITS CONTINUED**
17 **IMPLEMENTATION SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL**
18 **APPROPRIATIONS ACT.**

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

22 Sec. 6. *Separability Clause.* If any part or provision of this Act is held
23 unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected
24 shall continue to remain in full force and effect.

25 Sec. 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and
26 regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified
27 accordingly.

28 Sec. 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
29 publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,