



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors**
Legal Affairs Service
Policy and Planning Service
Climate Change Service

The Bureau Directors
Environmental Management Bureau
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
Forest Management Bureau

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **INVITATION TO THE ONLINE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) MEETING TO DISCUSS VARIOUS BILLS ON THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT ACT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE, COMMERCE, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES**

DATE : 14 November 2023

In reference to the email received by our Office, the Committee on Trade, Commerce, and Entrepreneurship joint with the Committee on Economic Affairs; and Committee on Finance of the Senate of the Philippines is inviting the Department to a Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting via Cisco Webex on **17 November 2023, Friday, 2:00 PM** to discuss the following legislative measures on the Bamboo Industry Development Act:

- **Senate Bill No. 605** - Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Act Of 2022 (Sen. Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri);
- **Senate Bill No. 615** - Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Act of 2022 (Sen. Cynthia Villar);
- **Senate Bill No. 1044** - Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Act (Sen. Joel Villanueva);
- **Senate Bill No. 1118** - Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Act (Sen. Loren Legarda);

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- **Senate Bill No. 1145** – Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Act of 2022 (Sen. Win Gatchalian);
- **Senate Bill No. 1552** - Bamboo Industry Development Act of 2022 (Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid);
- **Senate Bill No. 2172** – Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Act (Sen. Jinggoy Estrada); and
- **House Bill No. 7941** – Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Act (Representative Luis Raymund Villafuerte, Jr., et. al.)

Kindly inform us of the name/s of the representative/s from your office who will participate in the meeting on or before **16 November 2023, 5:00 PM** so we may include him/her/them as resource person/s.

Attached herewith are the Letter Invitation and a copy of a matrix illustrating the development of provisions the bills, for your reference.



ROMIROSE B. PADIN

cc: Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs
Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change



Republic of the Philippines

Senate

Manila

November 14, 2023

MS. MARIA LOURDES G. FERRER, CESO III

Director

Ecosystem Research Development Bureau

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Online Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting on Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Act

Dear **Ms. Ferrer:**

Greetings! **The Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship** wishes to extend its appreciation to your esteemed office for your active participation and invaluable contributions during our Technical Working on Bamboo Industry legislative measures on November 13, 2023. Your insights were instrumental, and we deeply appreciate your commitment to the industry.

In line with our ongoing efforts to pass a Bill on Philippine Bamboo Industry, the Committee is organizing an online **Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting** with the Government Agencies on **Friday, November 17, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. via Cisco Webex Platform** to discuss the legislative measures, copies of which are found in attached matrix. Your expertise and perspective are highly regarded, and we believe your input would be valuable in our understanding of the sector and may aid in fine tuning our current legislative measures.

Kindly confirm your attendance by sending an email to senate.trade@gmail.com or confirming your attendance through the link <https://forms.gle/rUCYQoCsrcUsv426>. For any clarification on the matter, please feel free to contact Ms. Ibli Inductivo at telephone numbers (02) 8552-6820 and (02) 8552-6601 local 3303.

Moreover, may we also request for your position paper, particularly on the attached working draft prepared by the Committee for easy reference and review if you have not yet submitted any. You are also welcome to provide comments on the other bills should you wish to do so. We would appreciate if could submit your position on or before our said meeting at senate.trade@gmail.com. Should your Office confirm its participation, may the Committee secretariat be apprised if you have any presentations to present during the hearing.

Your active and insightful participation will undoubtedly contribute significantly to our shared objectives. We eagerly anticipate your presence and look forward to a fruitful discussion.

Thank you very much!

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Agub', written in a cursive style.

SHERWYNNE B. AGUB
Committee Secretary

SENATE

S. No. _____

Introduced by **SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT IN THE
PHILIPPINES, CREATING THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CENTER,
APPROPRIATING 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. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Bamboo Industry
2 Development Act of 2022”.

3 *Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall provide for a self-reliant and
4 independent economy to its people. It shall support indigenous, scientific and
5 technological capabilities, and skills. It shall establish a program for sustainable
6 consumption, production, propagation and promotion of bamboo as furniture,
7 construction and design materials, food and other uses. It shall promote the bamboo
8 industry for poverty reduction, inclusive growth, environmental conservation and
9 protection, agricultural productivity enhancement and climate change mitigation and
10 adaptation.

11 *Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

12 a) *Bamboo* – refers to a non-timber forest product classified as grass, which
13 usually has hollow culms and lignose-cellulose matrix, that is used as
14 timber substitute and as raw material for bamboo-based products,

1 including, but not limited to, pulp and paper, textiles, house construction
2 material, coal, cutleries, cosmetics, dental care, and food;

3 b) *Bamboo Industry* – the industry associated with the planting and
4 cultivation of bamboo and bamboo-based products, including, but not
5 limited to, handicrafts, bamboo shoots, bamboo utilized for construction
6 purposes, bamboo for industrial production involving mechanized
7 processing of larger volumes of culms, such as for flooring, laminated
8 furniture, chopsticks, mat boards, charcoal, paper and pulp, textiles, and
9 unprocessed bamboo culms utilized in applications such as scaffolding
10 and traditional construction;

11 c) *Bamboo Industry Development Roadmap* – refers to the comprehensive
12 national industrial strategy for the Philippine bamboo industry and shall
13 provide specific programs and projects, including the timeline for the
14 propagation, development and management, processing, utilization,
15 business development, and commercialization of the Philippine bamboo
16 and bamboo products;

17 d) *Bamboo Processing* – refers to the process of conversion of bamboo for
18 various products and applications including, but not limited to, walls,
19 panels, trusses, handicraft, textiles, consumer products (tooth brush,
20 tissues, toothpicks, and chopsticks among others) and novelty products
21 (furniture, handicraft, and decors), focused on the possible use of
22 bamboo as substitutes for wood for various applications (plywood,
23 composites, pulp and paper, bamboo arts, and other architectural
24 applications); and

25 e) *Bamboo Stand* — an aggregate of clumps occupying a specific area and
26 sufficiently uniform in composition (species), age, spacing, and condition
27 as to be distinguished from the natural and/or existing bamboo stands.
28

29 **Sec. 4. Objectives.** – This Act aims to make the Philippine bamboo industry
30 competitive in the local and international markets while providing opportunities for
31 local employment and establishing bamboo-based community enterprises by:

- 1 a) Promoting the integrated and holistic development of the bamboo
2 industry in various aspects of research, production, processing,
3 marketing, consumption, capacity building, quality assurance, testing
4 and regulation;
- 5 b) Ensuring that the bamboo industry has sufficient supply of quality raw
6 materials through the establishment and management of bamboo
7 nurseries and plantations;
- 8 c) Ensuring that relevant and accurate data on the bamboo industry are
9 collated and published by the Center created under Section 7 of this Act,
10 in cooperation with various government agencies, private entities and
11 other relevant sources, to aid in business decisions related to the
12 industry;
- 13 d) Promoting investments in the bamboo industry by providing substantial
14 and attractive incentives to investors;
- 15 e) Providing skilled labor and manpower through continuous relevant
16 capacity building;
- 17 f) Ensuring the provision of locally manufactured machines with improved
18 capacity, efficiency, and quality at competitive costs;
- 19 g) Improving bamboo industry research and development to discover new
20 products and technologies, for commercial, industrial, housing or military
21 purposes, and advance market access for Philippine bamboo and
22 bamboo products locally and internationally;
- 23 h) Providing access to markets of bamboo products locally and
24 internationally through aggressive trade promotions; and
- 25 i) Ensuring sustainable resources in the implementation of the bamboo
26 industry development program.

27

28 Sec. 5. *Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council.* – The Philippine
29 Bamboo Industry' Development Council is hereby created. It shall be composed of the
30 following:

- 1 a) Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or his/her duly
2 authorized representative as Chair;
- 3 b) Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
4 (DENR) or his/her duly authorized representative, as Co-chair;
- 5 c) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) or his/her duly
6 authorized representative;
- 7 d) Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) or
8 his/her duly authorized representative;
- 9 e) Three (3) representatives from the private sector and the non-
10 governmental organizations involved in the bamboo industry and
11 agriculture. They would be appointed by the DTI Secretary from the list
12 of at least six (6) nominees submitted by the different organizations and
13 associations. They shall serve for a term of three (3) years, and may be
14 re-appointed once.

15 The Council shall meet quarterly and may hold special meetings whenever the
16 need arises to consider urgent matters upon the call of the Chairman or any of the
17 council members.

18 The Council shall be administratively attached to the Department of
19 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the first three (3) years from the
20 effectivity of this Act and, thereafter, shall be attached to the Department of Trade
21 and Industry (DTI).

22 *Sec. 6. Powers and Functions of the Council.* – The Council shall have the
23 following powers and functions, among others:

- 24 a) Formulate, update and publish the Philippine Bamboo Industry
25 Development Roadmap;
- 26 b) Identify specific programs and projects in support of, and in line with the
27 Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Roadmap;
- 28 c) Identify sources of financing to expand bamboo industry development;

- 1 d) Submit annual reports to the Office of the President, the Senate
2 Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship, and the House
3 of Representatives Committee on Trade and Industry on the status of
4 the implementation of the Roadmap and the bamboo industry
5 development in the country;
- 6 e) Regulate the export of bamboo poles;
- 7 f) Promulgate such rules and regulations and exercise such other powers
8 and functions as may be necessary to carry out effectively the attainment
9 of the purposes and objectives of this Act; and
- 10 g) Provide the overall policy and program directions of the bamboo
11 industry, coordinate activities of the various government agencies and
12 instrumentalities, and ensure the implementation, accomplishment, and
13 periodic review of the Bamboo Industry Development Roadmap.

14 *Sec. 7. Bamboo Industry Development Center.* – The Bamboo Industry
15 Development Center, hereinafter referred to as the Center, shall be created to serve
16 as the secretariat of the Council. It shall be headed by an Executive Director.

17 The organizational structure, staffing pattern and compensation schedule of the
18 Center shall be drawn up, after the approval of the Department of Budget and
19 Management (DBM), and in accordance with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) law,
20 rules and regulations. Government agencies represented in the Council may provide
21 additional administrative and technical staff support upon request of the Council.

22 The Center shall have the following powers and functions:

- 23 a) Promote and encourage the establishment and management of bamboo
24 nurseries and bamboo plantations for commercialization, in coordination
25 with DENR and DA;
- 26 b) Coordinate and partner with DOST for continuous research and
27 development to advance sustainable bamboo industry development
28 practices;

- 1 c) Work with the Council and coordinate with the DENR, DOST, DTI, and
2 the DA in formulating a holistic National Bamboo Industry Development
3 Program;
- 4 d) To establish and create processing facilities that would accelerate the
5 production and commercialization of bamboo and various bamboo
6 products;
- 7 e) Promote the establishment and creation of bamboo farm tourism camps
8 in coordination with the Department of Tourism;
- 9 f) Promote the commercialization and market access of appropriate,
10 innovative and viable bamboo industry development technologies and
11 products, including digitalization;
- 12 g) Coordinate and partner with other government agencies in the
13 implementation of bamboo industry development programs and
14 projects;
- 15 h) Monitor and evaluate the performance of the bamboo industry, and the
16 bamboo development programs and projects;
- 17 i) Coordinate and partner with the private sector, people's organizations
18 and non-governmental organizations, and State Colleges and
19 Universities in providing assistance on matters pertaining to bamboo
20 industry development;
- 21 j) Accept grants, donations and contributions from local and international
22 donors and such similar sources of funds for the implementation of this
23 Act, subject to the usual budget, accounting and auditing rules and
24 regulations;
- 25 k) Assist the Council, in cooperation with other appropriate government
26 agencies, in conducting a periodic review of the Philippine Bamboo
27 Industry Development Roadmap;
- 28 l) Conduct capability-building initiatives for farmers, farm workers,
29 processors, designers, and other stakeholders in the bamboo industry;

- 1 m) Gather data and create an information system related to bamboo,
2 including but not limited to, plantations, population, species, workers
3 and beneficiaries, investors, product demands and supplies, and costs
4 and benefits for market research;
- 5 n) Supervise the implementation of the plans and programs of the Council;
- 6 o) Manage and administer the projects approved by the Council under this
7 Act; and
- 8 p) Submit periodic reports to the Council on the progress and
9 accomplishment of bamboo industry programs and projects.

10 *Sec. 8. Executive Director of the Center.* – The Executive Director shall be
11 appointed by the DTI Secretary from the list of nominees submitted by the Council.
12 He/she shall be a citizen and resident of the Philippines and must possess executive
13 and management experience of at least three (3) years and with considerable
14 knowledge in bamboo industry development. He/she shall serve for a period of six (6)
15 years. In case of vacancy, the President shall appoint a replacement who shall serve
16 only for the duration of the unexpired term.

17 The Executive Director, in addition to his/her duties in the Center, shall have
18 the following powers and functions:

- 19 a) Assist the Council in the performance of its tasks;
- 20 b) Provide technical and administrative support to the Council;
- 21 c) Oversee the day-to-day operations of the Center; and
- 22 d) Perform such other functions, duties and responsibilities as may be
23 necessary to implement this Act.

24 *Sec. 9. Department of Environment and Natural Resources.* – The DENR shall
25 ensure the development and expansion of nurseries and plantations of bamboo for
26 commercial and industrial purposes, taking into consideration the ecological balance
27 in areas identified for plantation and propagation. It shall continue to conduct research
28 and development activities, and capability trainings for the production or propagation

1 of bamboo. Likewise, the DENR shall use bamboo as the planting material for at least
2 twenty five percent (25%) of its annual reforestation and rehabilitation areas
3 especially in provinces and towns which are engaged in or have the potential to
4 engage in bamboo-based industries or where trees are difficult to grow because of
5 poor site quality, susceptibility to erosion or adverse and steep gradients.

6 DENR, through the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) and
7 other concerned offices, shall continuously generate bamboo production technology
8 which shall be transferred and disseminated to farmers.

9 Sec. 10. *Department of Science and Technology.* – The DOST shall be the main
10 research and development arm for bamboo utilization of the Council. It shall
11 coordinate with the Center and other government agencies to innovate and advance
12 sustainable bamboo industry development practices. The DOST shall likewise allocate
13 twenty percent (20%) of its Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) assistance funds
14 such as the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) and the
15 Technology Application and Promotion Institute (TAPI) venture capital program to
16 bamboo-based enterprises.

17 Sec. 11. *Department of Trade and Industry.* – The DTI shall provide NGOs,
18 LGUs, cooperatives, people's organizations and business associations shared service
19 facilities for bamboo processing and manufacturing. The Technical Education and Skills
20 Development Authority (TESDA), shall provide trainings on bamboo industry related
21 courses under its scholarship programs.

22 Sec. 12. *Department of Agriculture.* – The Department of Agriculture shall
23 identify idle and marginalized agricultural areas suitable for bamboo plantations. This
24 should be done without sacrificing areas used for food production. It shall also assist
25 in establishing bamboo nurseries and in bamboo propagation with focus on bamboo
26 shoots production.

27 Sec. 13. *Non-governmental Organizations.* – The non-governmental
28 organizations (NGOs) and the private sector representatives shall lead in advocating

1 the planting and utilization of bamboo nationwide and in providing market information,
2 market research development, and other similar undertakings.

3 Sec. 14. *Local Governments Units.* – Local Government Units shall regularly
4 conduct surveys of existing bamboo stands, nurseries and plantations and shall
5 strengthen the local bamboo industry by promoting and utilizing bamboo products in
6 their respective localities.

7 Sec. 15. *Bamboo in Public Schools.* – At least twenty-five percent (25%) of all
8 the annual school desks and armchairs requirement of all of public elementary and
9 secondary schools nationwide procured by the Department of Education (DepEd) shall
10 when practicable be made from bamboo.

11 Sec. 16. *Incentives.* – The following incentives shall be provided:

- 12 a) Nursery and plantation owners shall be exempt from the payment of rent
13 for the use of public lands for commercial bamboo plantation subject to
14 existing tenurial agreement with concerned government agencies;
- 15 b) Bamboo plantation owners in public lands shall be exempt from the
16 payment of forest charges that may be imposed by national government;
- 17 c) Bamboo plantations shall be accepted as among the collaterals for loans
18 in government-owned or controlled banks, subject to its rules and
19 regulations;
- 20 d) Bamboo plantation developers and bamboo processors shall be given
21 priority to access credit assistance and guarantee schemes being granted
22 by government-owned, controlled and/ or supported financial
23 institutions;
- 24 e) Bamboo plantations shall not be required a cutting permit for harvesting
25 nor shall its produce need a transport permit for transporting: *Provided,*
26 That the such plantation is registered with the Community Environment
27 and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of the DENR;

- 1 f) Bamboo plantations and plantation development equipment shall be
2 covered by the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC);
- 3 g) For tenured bamboo plantation owners, upon the premature termination
4 of the tenurial agreement with no fault of the holder, all capital
5 improvements, depreciable permanent and semi-permanent
6 improvements such as roads, buildings, nurseries including the planted
7 and standing bamboo and other intercrops, introduced and retained in
8 the area, shall be evaluated and the holder shall be entitled to a fair
9 compensation thereof, the amount of which shall be mutually agreed
10 upon by both the DENR and the tenure-holder and in case of
11 disagreement between them, by arbitration through a mutually
12 acceptable and impartial third party adjudicator through the DENR; and
- 13 h) The export of bamboo poles shall be regulated by the Council while other
14 bamboo products may be exported without restrictions in volume.

15 Sec. 17. *Appropriations.* – The sum of One hundred million pesos
16 (P100,000,000.00) to be sourced from the unexpended contingency fund of the Office
17 of the President, the existing budget for bamboo industry development under the DTI,
18 the existing budget allocation for DOST-FPRID's bamboo related research and
19 development, and the existing budget allocation for DENR's BPDP, are hereby
20 appropriated for the initial budgetary requirements of the Center. Thereafter, such
21 amount as may be necessary for the continuous operation of the Center shall be
22 included in the annual GAA. The budgetary requirements of cooperating agencies shall
23 be incorporated in their respective annual budgets.

24 Sec. 18. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within six (6) months from the
25 effectivity of this Act, the DTI, in consultation with other concerned government
26 agencies, the academe, the private sector, and non-government organizations, shall
27 promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the effective
28 implementation of this Act.

1 Sec. 19. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
2 unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provisions hereof not
3 affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

4 Sec. 20. *Repealing Clause.* – Executive Order No. 879, series of 2010 is hereby
5 repealed. Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of
6 instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent or contrary to the provisions of this Act is
7 likewise repealed or modified accordingly.

8 Sec. 21. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
9 its complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

10 Approved,