



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

All Bureau Directors

All Regional Executive Directors

The Administrator
National Mapping Resource and Information Authority

The Chairman
Philippine Mining Development Corporation

The OIC Director
Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service

FROM : **The Director**
Legislative Liaison Office

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS/ RECOMMENDATIONS ON
UPDATED BILL ENTITLED "AN ACT STRENGTHENING
AND REVITALIZING THE SALT INDUSTRY IN THE
PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR" OF
THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES**

DATE : 18 January 2024

In relation to *Senate Bill No. 2243* otherwise known as, "*The Philippine Salt Industry Development Act*", we are furnishing your office with an updated copy of the bill from both houses of Congress. The Department is involved and is mentioned in the following provisions, please be guided accordingly:

- **Section 5 (d).** Creation of Salt Industry in which DENR is part of the Salt Council
- **Section 9.** Mapping and Determination of Public Lands for Salt Production.
- **Section 8.** Salt and Aquatic Resources Product

- **Section 11.** Allocation and Use of Public Lands for Salt Production

In this regard, may we respectfully request additional comments/recommendations on the abovementioned bill, if you have not submitted already. Kindly submit your comments/recommendations on or **before 26 January 2024, 5:00 PM.** via email at denrlo@denr.gov.ph.

Attached herewith is a copy of the updated bill, for your reference.


ROMIROSE B. PADIN

cc: Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs



Republic Act No. _____

AN ACT STRENGTHENING AND REVITALIZING THE
SALT INDUSTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES,
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
2 the “Philippine Salt Industry Development Act”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the
4 State to promote rural development based on sound
5 agricultural productivity, increase in rural income through
6 enterprises that make full and efficient use of human and
7 natural resources, and which are competitive in both
8 domestic and foreign markets. For this purpose, the State
9 shall provide support through appropriate technology and
10 research, and adequate financial, production, marketing,
11 and other support services to revitalize the salt industry,
12 attain increased production by salt farmers and salt

1 producers, achieve salt self-sufficiency, and become a net
2 exporter of salt.

3 It is further the policy of the State to preserve,
4 protect, and rehabilitate the natural environment in the
5 actualization of its developmental policies.

6 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this
7 Act, the following terms are hereby defined as follows:

8 (a) *Artisanal Salt* refers to locally produced unrefined
9 salt, derived directly from a living sea or ocean, using
10 traditional methods. It retains natural traces of minerals
11 coming from sea water, and is produced by traditional or
12 community-based enterprises.

13 (b) *Artisanal Salt Producer* refers to one who utilizes
14 traditional methods of production using non-mechanized
15 means.

16 (c) *Food-grade salt* refers to salt for human
17 consumption.

18 (d) *Industrial salt* refers to salt used in the treatment,
19 processing, and/or manufacture of non-food commercial
20 products.

1 (e) *Iodized salt* refers to ordinary salt with Fortificant
2 Potassium Iodate (KIO₃).

3 (f) *Salt* refers to an unrefined salt derived directly
4 from a living sea or ocean, harvested through the process of
5 cooking, smoking or solar evaporation. Regardless of the
6 manner of production, it retains natural traces of minerals
7 coming from sea water.

8 (g) *Salt Farm* refers to areas of land, shorelines, or
9 coastal areas, including its buildings, machineries, and
10 equipment used in salt production. Salt farms may be
11 classified as:

12 (1) *Individual Salt Farm* – salt farm of not more than
13 fifty (50) hectares;

14 (2) *Corporate or Cooperative/Association Salt Farm* –
15 salt farm of not more than two hundred fifty (250)
16 hectares.

17 (g) *Salt Producer* refers to an individual, corporation,
18 cooperative or association involved in the production of
19 salt. Local salt producers shall be categorized as follows:

1 (1) Subsistence producer/manufacture – A person or
2 association engaged in the production, trade, and
3 distribution of salt not exceeding two (2) metric tons (MT)
4 per year.

5 (2) Small producer/manufacture – A person,
6 corporation, or association engaged in the production,
7 trade and distribution of salt ranging from more than two
8 (2) metric tons (MT) to three hundred (300) metric tons
9 (MT) per year.

10 (3) Medium producer/manufacture – A person,
11 corporation, or association engaged in the production,
12 trade, and distribution of salt ranging from more than
13 three hundred (300) metric tons (MT) to two thousand
14 (2,000) metric tons (MT) per year.

15 (4) Large producer/manufacture – A person,
16 corporation, or association engaged in the production,
17 trade, and distribution of salt exceeding two thousand
18 (2,000) metric tons (MT) per year.

1 (i) *Salt Production* refers to the process of generating
2 salt from salt water utilizing solar evaporation or cooking
3 and other acceptable methods.

4 SEC. 4. *Philippine Salt Industry Development*
5 *Roadmap (Salt Roadmap)*. – For the attainment of the
6 objectives of this Act, there shall be formulated and
7 established a Philippine Salt Industry Development
8 Roadmap (Salt Roadmap), which shall include, but not
9 limited to, programs, projects and interventions for the
10 development and management, research, processing,
11 utilization, business modernization, and commercialization
12 of Philippine salt: *Provided*, That the Roadmap shall be
13 aligned with the objectives and continued implementation
14 of Republic Act No. 8172 or the “Act for Salt Iodization
15 Nationwide (ASIN)”, which shall include the mandatory
16 iodization of all food-grade salt and shall have the
17 following objectives, among others:

18 (a) Increase salt production in order to attain salt-
19 self-sufficiency, and become a net exporter of salt;

1 (b) Encourage salt farming and expand the number of
2 salt-producing areas;

3 (c) Ensure the sustainable production, management
4 and harvesting, and soil and water conservation practices
5 in salt-farming areas;

6 (d) Promote public and private investments in the
7 salt industry development programs;

8 (e) Ensure the sustainability and viability of the salt
9 industry through the establishment of cooperatives among
10 salt farmers and salt producers in order to optimize local
11 production and improve access to government
12 interventions, assistance, and incentives;

13 (f) Advance market access for Philippine salt
14 products locally and internationally;

15 (g) Support research and development (R&D)
16 activities for salt production and processing and introduce
17 new and appropriate technology based on R&D outputs;

18 (h) Ensure regular funding for salt production,
19 processing, commercial and marketing programs and

1 projects and provide technical and financial assistance in
2 the local design and fabrication of high-capacity processing
3 equipment and machineries for the salt industry and salt
4 iodization; and

5 (i) Provide continuous training and capacity building
6 in the salt industry development.

7 SEC. 5. *Creation of Philippine Salt Industry*
8 *Development Council (Salt Council).* – To ensure the
9 unified and integrated implementation of the Salt
10 Roadmap and accelerate the modernization and
11 industrialization of the Philippine Salt Industry, a Salt
12 Council is hereby created with the following composition:

13 (a) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA),
14 as Chairperson;

15 (b) Secretary of the Department of Trade and
16 Industry (DTI) as Vice-Chairperson;

17 Members:

18 (c) Director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic
19 Resources (BFAR);

20

1 (d) Secretary of the Department of Environment and
2 Natural Resources (DENR);

3 (e) Secretary of the Department of Science and
4 Technology (DOST);

5 (f) Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH);

6 (g) Secretary of the Department of Tourism (DOT);

7 (h) Secretary of the Department of Public Works and
8 Highways (DPWH);

9 (i) Secretary of the Department of Labor and
10 Employment (DOLE);

11 (j) Chairperson of the Cooperative Development
12 Authority (CDA);

13 (k) Executive Director of National Fisheries Research
14 and Development Institute (NFRDI);

15 (l) One representative each from the League of
16 Provinces of the Philippines, League of Cities of the
17 Philippines, and League of Municipalities of the
18 Philippines of salt-producing areas;

19 (m) One (1) representative from the private sector
20 engaged in salt-production business; and

1 (n) Three (3) representatives from the salt farmer
2 cooperative, two (2) representing Luzon and one (1)
3 representing Visayas and Mindanao.

4 *Provided*, That the respective agencies may designate
5 their permanent representatives whose rank shall not be
6 lower than an Assistant Secretary: *Provided, further*, That
7 the representatives from business sector shall be chosen by
8 BFAR from a list of three (3) nominees submitted to it by
9 the sector; representatives from the cooperatives shall be
10 chosen by BFAR from a list of five (5) nominees for Luzon
11 and three (3) for the Visayas and Mindanao submitted to it
12 by the salt farmers' cooperatives: *Provided, finally*, That
13 one-third (1/3) of all the members of the Salt Council shall
14 constitute a quorum.

15 . SEC. 6. *Functions of the Salt Council.* – The Salt
16 Council shall have the following powers and functions:

17 (a) Formulate the five (5)-year Salt Roadmap, which
18 shall contain the short-term, medium term, and long-term
19 development plan (Development Plan) for the industry,

1 which shall be updated yearly, or earlier, as determined by
2 the Salt Council;

3 (b) Identify specific and priority programs and
4 projects in support of, and in line with the Roadmap;

5 (c) Provide development funds and technical
6 assistance to salt farmers and the industry. The support
7 shall be commensurate to the size of the salt farm;

8 (d) Implement the mechanization of salt production
9 process through provision of machinery and equipment
10 such as, but not limited to, harvesters, and motorized
11 pumps to reduce operational cost.

12 (e) Identify sources of financing and facilitate credit
13 windows with government banks and the Agricultural
14 Credit Policy Council (ACPC) to expand the salt industry
15 development;

16 (f) Increase production of local salt by increasing land
17 area devoted to salt and improving farm productivity;

18 (g) Institutionalize capacity building for salt farmers
19 through the BFAR provincial offices under the Fisheries
20 Post-Harvest Technology Division (FPHTD);

1 (h) Strengthen market linkage and promotion of
2 Philippine salt;

3 (i) Conduct continuing research and development on
4 innovation and modernization of the salt industry;

5 (j) Establish an Agri-Insurance Program for Salt
6 producers;

7 (k) Submit annual reports, not later than June 30, to
8 the Office of the President and to each House of Congress,
9 on the status of the implementation of the Roadmap and
10 the salt industry development in the country;

11 (l) Recommend to the Department of Budget and
12 Management (DBM) the required yearly appropriations for
13 the plan and implementation of the salt development
14 programs;

15 (m) Promulgate such rules and regulations, and
16 exercise such other powers and functions, as may be
17 necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act; and

18 (n) Constitute the staffing complement of the PMO-
19 Secretariat with the power to create and abolish positions.

1 SEC. 7. *Creation of a Program Management Office*
2 (*PMO*). – The DA, through the BFAR, shall lead in the
3 implementation of the Development Plan. Towards this
4 end, a PMO is hereby created under the Office of the BFAR
5 Director to oversee the overall implementation of the
6 Development Plan and the monitoring of its execution by
7 the implementing agencies and/or partners. Further, the
8 PMO shall also assume and perform secretariat functions
9 such as to coordinate and manage the regular meetings of
10 the Salt Council, prepare and/or consolidate reports,
11 monitor the implementation of policy decisions that the
12 Salt Council has adopted and liaise with all the member
13 departments and relevant agencies of the government. The
14 PMO shall have a staff complement, as approved by the
15 Salt Council.

16 SEC. 8. *Salt as an Aquatic Resource Product*. – Salt,
17 unprocessed or processed, is hereby classified as an aquatic
18 resource product and shall be exempt from all taxes.

19 The DA shall also ensure that salt is a priority
20 commodity to be produced locally in areas or regions

1 identified in this Act. The required resources shall be
2 allocated by the DA for this purpose.

3 SEC. 9. *Mapping and Determination of Public Lands*
4 *for Salt Production; Role of the DENR and BFAR.* – Most
5 areas suitable for salt production are public lands which
6 are currently within the administrative jurisdiction of the
7 DENR and the BFAR.

8 Pursuant to this Act, the DENR through its
9 appropriate Bureaus and its attached agency, the National
10 Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA),
11 and the BFAR are hereby mandated to map out, identify,
12 and designate public lands, including portions of municipal
13 waters, as salt production areas. They shall prioritize
14 public lands situated in the following provinces that are
15 identified as suitable for salt production, namely: Ilocos
16 Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Zambales,
17 Bataan, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan,
18 Marinduque, Quezon Province, Misamis Oriental, and
19 Antique, which are now hereby declared as priority areas
20 for salt production. They shall finish the task within sixty

1 (60) days from the effectivity of this Act: *Provided*, That
2 public lands in other regions shall also be subsequently
3 mapped out, identified and designated as potential salt
4 production areas, within six (6) months from the effectivity
5 of this Act: *Provided, further*, That the result of the
6 mandatory mapping, identification, and designation of
7 public lands for salt production shall be shared with the
8 public, through the DENR and BFAR websites or
9 otherwise, as their respective agency rules shall allow, so
10 as to inform interested salt industry investors: *Provided*,
11 *furthermore*, That they shall also provide a report on the
12 completion of this mapping, identification, and designation
13 to both Houses of Congress through the Congressional
14 Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries
15 Modernization (COCAFAM).

16 SEC. 10. *Transfer of Public Lands Identified as*
17 *Suitable for Salt Production from DENR to BFAR.* – The
18 DENR is hereby mandated to transfer public lands mapped
19 out, identified, and designated as suitable for salt
20 production under its administrative jurisdiction to BFAR.

1 It shall do so within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of
2 this Act.

3 SEC. 11. *Allocation and Use of Public Lands for Salt*
4 *Production; Role of BFAR; Miscellaneous Provisions.* –
5 BFAR is hereby mandated to allocate public lands for
6 salt production to qualified salt producers. For this
7 purpose, it shall issue a tenurial instrument (herein
8 referred to as the Salt Production Tenurial
9 Instrument or SPTI) to qualified salt producers for
10 the use of these public lands, certified copies of which
11 shall be furnished the Salt Council through the PMO:
12 *Provided,* That tenurial instruments on public lands
13 already issued to private entities shall be respected:
14 *Provided, further,* That tenurial instruments issued
15 for salt production shall be strictly used only for the
16 purpose for which it was granted, and that public land
17 with salt farms shall not be converted to other uses,
18 other than for fisheries and aquaculture purposes:
19 *Provided, furthermore,* That the procedure for such

1 issuance shall take into utmost consideration
2 Republic Act No. 11032 or the "Ease of Doing
3 Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery
4 Act": *Provided, finally*, That the BFAR shall maintain
5 a digital database of all applicants and holders of
6 SPTI to ensure integrity of data, stronger data
7 protection, and convenient data access.

8 (a) *Salt Production Tenurial Instrument (SPTI)*.

9 An application for a SPTI on a public land for salt
10 farm production shall be submitted to BFAR. BFAR shall
11 issue the SPTI to qualified salt producers, which shall
12 indicate, *inter alia*, the following:

13 (1) Name and other relevant information about the
14 grantee;

15 (2) Terms and conditions in the use of the salt farm;

16 (3) Period of use of the public land on which the salt
17 farm is located;

18 (4) Conditions for termination, which shall include an
19 undertaking to start salt farm construction and operation

1 within one (1) year from the approval and granting of the
2 SPTI and to protect and preserve critical habitat for
3 marine life in the area; and

4 (5) Metes and bounds of the salt farm.

5 *Provided*, That nothing herein shall be added that
6 contradicts the principles and provisions in the "Ease of
7 Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery
8 Act": *Provided, further*, That new/renewal/transfer of
9 application for SPTI shall be submitted to the BFAR
10 Provincial Office, which shall process and issue the SPTI
11 applied for within forty-five (45) days from the complete
12 submission of the three (3) requirements enumerated in
13 subparagraph (b) of this section, failure in the issuance of
14 which shall render the application approved and BFAR
15 shall immediately issue the SPTI applied for to the
16 applicant: *Provided, furthermore*, That the SPTI shall bear
17 only the signature of the Regional Director and the BFAR
18 Director.

19 (b) *Qualification of Salt Producers Applying for SPTI.*

1 The BFAR shall approve application for SPTI on the
2 bases of only the following three (3) requirements:

3 (1) Certificate of Registration as a salt producer,
4 secured under Section 13 of this Act;

5 (2) The applicant has an outstanding track record of
6 engaging in salt farm business or other related business for
7 at least three (3) years, or has an actual experience in salt
8 production for at least three (3) years: *Provided*, That
9 Cooperatives/Associations of subsistence and small salt
10 producers/farmers may present certification and
11 endorsement from the local government unit(s) (LGUs)
12 within which their intended salt farm will be established of
13 their capability to manage and operate a salt farm, in lieu
14 of the three (3)-year period requirement; and

15 (3) Payment of rental fee for the use of said public
16 land in the amount equal to current rates exacted by BFAR
17 on the use of these public lands.

18 *Provided*, That Cooperatives/Associations of subsistence
19 and small salt producers/farmers shall be given
20 preferential treatment in the grant of SPTI and shall be

1 allowed rent-free use of the public land on which the salt
2 farm and its facilities are built for a period of three (3)
3 years from the start of salt farm operations: *Provided,*
4 *further,* That said Associations/Cooperatives shall present
5 authenticity of the nature and composition of its members
6 through Certification from the local office of the
7 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
8 and the LGU where he/she reside: *Provided, furthermore,*
9 That misdeclaration or falsification or any other false deed
10 to conceal the real nature and composition of its members
11 shall render its officers liable for criminal acts under
12 existing laws.

13 (c) *Period of Use of Public Land for Salt Farm.*

14 The salt producer with a SPTI shall be allowed use of
15 public land for salt production for twenty-five (25) years,
16 renewable for another twenty-five (25) years: *Provided,*
17 That the lease agreement shall be subject to early
18 termination upon a determination by BFAR, upon due
19 process, of the grantee's violation of the provision(s) in the
20 SPTI.

1 (d) *Limitations on the Size of Salt Farms.*

2 Individuals may lease up to fifty (50) hectares of salt
3 farms. Corporations or cooperatives/associations may lease
4 up to two hundred fifty (250) hectares. A lease applicant
5 may apply for a lease for more than one (1) area and hold
6 several lease agreements, but in no case shall the total
7 area of such multiple lease agreements exceed the limits
8 prescribed under this provision.

9 SEC. 12. *Utilization of Public Lands Already Issued*
10 *Fishpond Lease Agreements (FLAs) for Salt Production;*
11 *Other Forms of Public Land Possession.* – Fishpond Lease
12 Agreements (FLAs) issued by BFAR before the enactment
13 of this law may now include salt production as among the
14 valid activities that may be undertaken by the leaseholder:
15 *Provided,* That if the lessee so decides to engage in salt
16 production, such lease agreement, or such portion of that
17 public land under the FLA to be used for salt production,
18 shall be governed by the provisions of this Act. In such
19 case, the already issued FLA shall be amended accordingly
20 to reflect salt production: *Provided,* That the period in the

1 amended FLA for salt production shall state the full
2 twenty-five (25)-year period.

3 If other public lands identified for salt production
4 purposes under this Act are already in the possession
5 of private entities, BFAR shall notify the possessor
6 that such public land has been identified as suitable
7 for salt production, and if the possessor shall accede to
8 develop such public land into salt production area,
9 then the process of developing the area into salt
10 production shall continue in accordance with the
11 provisions of this Act.

12 SEC. 13. *Registration as Salt Producer; Control*
13 *Measures.* – All salt producers, whether holders of SPTI or
14 otherwise, shall register with the BFAR: *Provided, That*
15 *the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) shall retain its*
16 *jurisdiction over the registration of salt for human*
17 *consumption as provided under the ASIN Law and*
18 *Republic Act No. 10611, or the “Food Safety Act of 2013”.*

1 The following are the qualification requirements for
2 registration:

3 (a) For Cooperatives/Associations

4 (1) Existing

5 (i) Certification as Existing Salt Producer from the
6 LGU where salt farm operates;

7 (ii) Certificate of Registration from CDA for
8 Cooperatives, or from LGU where the farm site is located
9 for farmers' association;

10 (iii) Production Record for the immediately preceding
11 year; and

12 (iv) Affidavit from applicant of existence of at least
13 fifty (50) members.

14 (2) New Registrants

15 (i) Certificate of Registration from CDA for
16 Cooperatives, or from LGU where the Proposed Farm Site
17 is located for Farmers' Association;

18 (ii) Business Plan;

19 (iii) Farm Site Inspection Report from the Provincial
20 Fisheries Officer (PFO); and

1 (iv) Affidavit from Applicant of Existence of at least
2 Fifty (50) members.

3 (b) For Corporations

4 (1) Existing

5 (i) Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
6 Registration;

7 (ii) Certification as Existing Salt Producer from the
8 LGU where salt farm operates;

9 (iii) Updated Tax Payment Record; and

10 (iv) Proof of SSS, Pag-IBIG, PhilHealth remittances.

11 (1) New Registrants

12 (i) SEC Registration;

13 (ii) Business Plan; and

14 (iii) Farm Site Inspection Report from the Provincial
15 Fisheries Officer (PFO).

16 (c) For Individuals/Artisanal

17 (1) Existing

18 (i) Certificate as a Salt Producer from the LGU, and
19 indication as artisanal, if applicable; and

1 (ii) Production Report for the immediately preceding
2 year.

3 (2) New Registrants

4 (i) Business Plan; and

5 (ii) Farm/Production Site Inspection Report from the
6 PFO.

7 Registration shall be renewed every three (3) years.

8 Upon complete submission of the qualification
9 requirements, BFAR shall issue the Certificate of
10 Registration as a salt producer, or a notice of the denial of
11 the application for registration, accompanied by an
12 explanation for such denial, within forty-five (45) days
13 from completion. The failure of BFAR to act on the
14 application renders the application approved, and it shall
15 immediately issue the said Certificate of Registration. An
16 appeal for such denial shall be filed with the BFAR
17 Director within fifteen (15) days from receipt of Notice of
18 Denial, which in turn shall be decided with administrative
19 finality by the Director, within fifteen (15) days from filing.

1 SEC. 14. *Support for the Development of Salt Farms*
2 *and Salt Producers.* – The DA-BFAR, in consultation with
3 individuals, corporations, associations, and cooperatives
4 from the salt industry, shall provide technical support in
5 the development and operation of existing salt farms. It
6 shall assist in the design of salt farms of
7 cooperatives/associations.

8 BFAR is hereby mandated and authorized to grant
9 material and technical assistance to salt farms of
10 cooperatives/associations through its own projects and
11 programs for the salt industry, on the following concerns:

12 (a) Establishment of salt farm warehouses;

13 (b) Provision of inputs for salt development,
14 machinery, and equipment;

15 (c) Conduct of extension services;

16 (d) Establishment and strengthening of salt
17 producers cooperative;

18 (e) Development of modern salt production and
19 processing technology.

1 This mandate shall be funded out of the tariff
2 collection on imported salt as provided in Sections 27 and
3 28 of this Act. The BFAR shall institutionalize the
4 Development of Salt Industry Program (DSIP) as a regular
5 program funded by the General Appropriations Act (GAA)
6 and shall cover the interventions that are not included for
7 funding by the SIDCEF over and above the regular budget
8 of BFAR under the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

9 SEC. 15. *Construction of Salt Farm Roads.* -
10 Consistent with the Development Plan, the DA-BFAR, in
11 coordination with LGUs and the resident-salt producers,
12 shall identify priority locations of roads linking the salt
13 farms to the market, which shall be known as *Daan*
14 *Asinan*. In the construction of the *Daan Asinan*, the DA-
15 BFAR shall consider the investment cost for salt
16 production in the area, the number of salt producers and
17 their families who shall benefit from the venture and the
18 amount of salt produced or to be potentially produced in
19 the salt production areas. Thereafter, the DA-BFAR shall
20 coordinate with the DPWH for the latter to undertake the

1 construction, improvement, and maintenance of the *Daan*
2 *Asinan*.

3 SEC. 16. *Research and Promotion of Salt Farming*
4 *Methodologies and Techniques*. – The Department of
5 Agriculture- National Fisheries Research and Development
6 Institute (DA-NFRDI), in close coordination with the
7 DA-Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and
8 Mechanization (DA-PhilMech), shall spearhead the
9 development of the latest technology in salt production,
10 particularly technology that allows year-round production
11 of salt even under erratic weather patterns. It shall also
12 encourage the mechanization of salt production from pre-
13 to post-harvest and develop technologies that promote
14 alternative methods and cost-effective techniques in salt
15 production.

16 The DA-NFRDI shall immediately transfer the
17 results of their completed study/technology/product to salt
18 producers/manufacturers.

19 SEC. 17. *Extension Programs*. – The BFAR, in
20 coordination with the DTI, DOST, DOLE, TESDA and

1 other relevant government agencies, shall provide
2 complementary training programs that shall develop and
3 upgrade the skills and competencies of Philippine salt
4 producers, ensure product traceability and compliance to
5 food safety, hasten technology acquisition including
6 product labelling and packaging, enhance skills on market
7 positioning for Philippine artisanal/specialty and
8 industrial salts and such other capabilities necessary in
9 the maintenance and development of the local salt
10 industry.

11 SEC. 18. *Corps of Salt Production Trainers.* – Within
12 thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, BFAR shall
13 form the Corps of Trainers for salt production, whose
14 members shall be recruited from BFAR personnel in the
15 provinces, under the FPHTD; experts from State
16 Universities and Colleges (SUCs) with a track record for
17 studying and researching on salt production and
18 post-production techniques and technology; experts from
19 ATI; and from practitioners in actual salt farm production
20 in the country. The Corps members shall be tasked to help

1 out in the establishment of salt farms in areas designated
2 as such by this Act. BFAR shall spend for their travel,
3 lodging, *honoraria* and other necessary expenses, within
4 existing budgetary rules.

5 SEC. 19. *Salt Farmers Cooperatives and Association.* –

6 The Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) shall assist
7 in the formation, organizational strengthening, and
8 financial literacy of cooperatives and their local salt
9 farmers-members and producers. It shall aim to build
10 capabilities of cooperatives and associations to leverage
11 their own resources, run sustainable operations, and
12 increase the number of successful cooperative-managed
13 salt farms in the country.

14 SEC. 20. *Trade and Export Assistance.* – The DTI and
15 the DA shall assist and support local salt producers in the
16 trade and exportation of their product. They shall enhance
17 the capabilities and global competitiveness of potential and
18 existing producers and exporters through export financing;
19 business matching; provision of trade and market
20 information; promotion of locally produced salt to local and

1 international markets; organization of trade fairs and
2 business missions; conduct of seminars, workshops,
3 conferences and symposium on export-related subjects,
4 including export documentation and procedures; product
5 design and development; and market and product
6 consultancy. The government shall give preference to
7 locally produced salt in government purchases.

8 SEC. 21. *Role of LGUs.* – LGUs shall, as far as
9 practicable, establish their respective Salt Industry
10 Development Task Force (Salt Task Force). LGUs shall
11 regularly conduct a survey of existing salt farms and salt
12 processing enterprises in their respective localities.

13 LGUs in cooperation with the DENR, BFAR,
14 DA-NFRDI, and DTI and the appropriate DOST-Regional
15 Office shall identify appropriate areas for local salt
16 production in their respective localities.

17 SEC. 22. *Importation of Salts.* – No person shall
18 import salt without first securing a permit from the
19 following agencies:

20 (a) DA-BFAR and DOH-FDA for food grade salt; and

1 (b) DA-BFAR for non-food grade salt.

2 The DOH-FDA and DA-BFAR are hereby mandated
3 to harmonize and streamline their processes.

4 SEC 23. *Mandatory Use of Domestically-Produced*
5 *Salt.* – The government shall mandate the use of
6 domestically-produced salt in its programs, including the
7 fertilization of coconut farms by the Philippine Coconut
8 Authority (PCA).

9 SEC. 24. *National Iodization Program.* –
10 Notwithstanding the provisions of Republic Act No. 8172 or
11 the “ASIN Law”, iodization of artisanal and non-food grade
12 salt and salt intended for export is hereby rendered
13 optional in the country. The use of artisanal salt by food
14 manufacturers and food establishments shall be allowed.

15 The salt produced by salt farmers shall not be
16 automatically categorized as food grade, nor shall the
17 burden of iodizing salt be on the salt farmers.

18 Food grade salt may be sold by farmers to salt
19 processors in compliance with this Act provided that
20 iodization shall be done by the processors.

1 Importers, traders and distributors of imported food-
2 grade salt that will undertake fortification shall comply
3 with the iodization standards set by the DOH.

4 For this purpose, the DOH shall develop guidelines
5 for the implementation of this new mandate, taking into
6 consideration international trade nuances and standards
7 impacting on local food manufacturers and exporters.

8 The BFAR-Fisheries Post-Harvest Technology
9 Division (BFAR-FPHTD) is hereby tasked to develop and
10 implement a comprehensive program for the acquisition,
11 design, and manufacture of salt iodization equipment, and
12 the further development of salt iodization technology.

13 SEC. 25. *Labeling of Salt Made in the Philippines.* –
14 All salt produced or manufactured in the Philippines for
15 export shall be labeled as “Made in the Philippines” in a
16 prominent and conspicuous manner on the product, its
17 packaging, and accompanying documentation, and shall
18 comply with the requirements of Republic Act. No. 7394,
19 otherwise known as the “*Consumer Act of the Philippines.*”

1 For domestically produced salt intended for the local
2 market, salt manufacturers, producers or farmers are
3 encouraged to provide a label "Made in the Philippines."

4 The DTI shall assist domestic salt manufacturers,
5 producers or farmers on this labeling requirement.

6 SEC. 26. *Incentives.* – The following incentives shall
7 be provided to investors in salt farms development and salt
8 processing facilities:

9 (a) The Board of Investments shall classify salt farms
10 as preferred areas of investment under its Investment
11 Priorities Plan (IPP) subject to pertinent rules and
12 regulations;

13 (b) Salt farm owners, salt processors and other
14 related businesses shall be exempt from the payment of
15 import duties for imported machines and equipment to be
16 actually and directly used in their businesses, subject to
17 pertinent rules and regulations;

18 (c) The salt producers and processors shall be given
19 priority to access credit assistance and guarantee schemes
20 granted by Government Financial Institutions (GFIs); and

1 (d) Salt farm development and their equipment shall
2 be covered by the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation.

3 SEC. 27. *Tariff on Salt.* – There shall be levied,
4 collected, and paid upon all imported salt a duty of nine
5 percent (9%) *ad valorem*.

6 Tariff collections shall be credited automatically to a
7 special account with the National Treasury, which shall be
8 in place within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this
9 Act, for the purpose of developing the salt industry.

10 Salt imports include imported products under the
11 following HS headings or AHTN Codes, the Descriptions:

12 2501 – Salt (including table salt and denatured salt)
13 and pure sodium chloride, whether or not in aqueous
14 solution of containing added anti-caking or free flowing
15 agents; sea water.

16 (a) 2501.00.10 - Table salt

17 (b) 2501.00.20 - Unprocessed rock salt

18 (c) 2501.00.50 - Sea water

19 (d) - Other

20 (e) 2501.00.51 - Salt, denatured, industrial

1 (f) 2501.00.91 - With sodium chloride content
2 more than 60% but less than 97%, calculated on a dry
3 basis, fortified with iodine.

4 (g) 2501.00.92 - Other, with sodium chloride
5 content 97% or more but less than 99.9%, calculated on a
6 dry basis.

7 (h) 2501.00.99 - Other

8 SEC. 28. *Creation of the Salt Industry Development*
9 *and Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (SIDCEF).* – The
10 SIDCEF is hereby created from the salt tariff collections
11 special account with the National Treasury. The SIDCEF
12 shall exist for the next ten (10) years following the
13 effectivity of this Act.

14 The allocation and utilization of the SIDCEF shall be
15 subject to the following guidelines:

16 (a) The SIDCEF shall be earmarked, released, and
17 implemented as follows:

18 (1) Provision of machinery and equipment, including
19 sea water pumps, salt graders, salt harvesters, dump
20 trucks and bagging machines, and salt iodization machine

1 for beneficiaries who are into salt iodization; fifty percent
2 (50%); to be utilized and implemented by BFAR;

3 (2) Establishment of salt farm warehouses/storage
4 areas; forty percent (40%); to be constructed and
5 implemented by DPWH;

6 (3) Conduct of extension services; five percent (5%); to
7 be utilized and implemented by BFAR provincial offices;
8 and

9 (4) Development of modern salt production and
10 processing technology; five percent (5%) to be utilized and
11 implemented by NFRDI.

12 *Provided*, That the beneficiaries of the SIDCEF are
13 the salt cooperatives/associations of subsistence and small
14 farmers fisherfolk: *Provided, further*, That the earmarking
15 percentage shall be reviewed at the end of the fifth (5th)
16 year following the effectivity of this Act, without prejudice
17 to an earlier review if deemed necessary, for possible
18 revisions and upgrading based on changes in intervention
19 priorities: *Provided, furthermore*, That the allocation and

1 disbursement of funds shall focus on the provinces that
2 have the most number of salt farms.

3 (b) At the end of the fifth (5th) year from the
4 effectivity of this Act, a mandatory review shall be
5 conducted by the COCAFAM to determine whether SIDCEF
6 and its use as provided for under this Act shall be
7 continued, amended, or terminated. The COCAFAM shall
8 utilize the increase or decrease in farmers' incomes as a
9 primary benchmark in determining the effectiveness of the
10 interventions under the SIDCEF and its possible
11 extension.

12 (c) The Secretary of the DA and BFAR Director shall
13 be accountable and responsible for the management and
14 utilization of the said fund in coordination with the other
15 government agencies concerned;

16 (d) The amount allocated shall be released directly to
17 the implementing agencies as provided for in this Act
18 based on the objectives of the Salt Industry Development
19 Roadmap: *Provided, That* the unutilized portion of the
20 SIDCEF shall not revert to the general fund but shall

1 continue to be used for the purpose for which it was set
2 aside. The fund releases shall not be subject to any ceiling
3 by the DBM; and

4 (e) Any program undertaken in accordance with this
5 Act shall only be deemed complementary and
6 supplementary to, and shall not be a replacement of any
7 existing programs for the fisherfolk already implemented
8 by the DA-BFAR and other agencies concerned.

9 SEC. 29. *Powers of the President.* – Notwithstanding
10 Section 27 of this Act and consistent with the Philippine
11 national interest and the objective of safeguarding local
12 salt producers and consumers, the President is hereby
13 empowered to act with full delegated authority subject to
14 the provisions of the Customs Modernization and Tariff
15 Act (CMTA), in the following circumstances:

16 (a) The President may revise or adjust existing rates
17 of customs duties on salt imports consonant with the
18 country's international agreements, including any
19 necessary change in classification applicable to their
20 importation: *Provided*, That the adjustment is time-bound

1 and that the power herein delegated to the President shall
2 only be exercised when Congress is not in session:
3 *Provided, further,* That any order issued by the President
4 adjusting the applied tariff rates shall take effect fifteen
5 (15) days after publication;

6 (b) In the event of any imminent or forecasted
7 shortage, or such other situation requiring government
8 intervention, the President is empowered for a limited
9 period and/or a specified volume, to allow the importation
10 of salt at a lower applied tariff rate to address the
11 situation. Such order shall take effect immediately and can
12 be issued even when Congress is in session.

13 The power herein delegated to the President may be
14 withdrawn or terminated by Congress through a joint
15 resolution.

16 SEC. 30. *Reporting.* – The various departments and
17 agencies specified in this Act shall provide regular updates
18 to the Salt Council on the progress of their programs and
19 activities toward the realization of the objectives of this
20 Act.

1 SEC. 31. *Congressional Oversight.* – The COCAF
2 shall regularly exercise its oversight powers to ensure full
3 implementation of this Act.

4 SEC. 32. *Agencies Regular Programs.* – The additional
5 mandates, functions and activities of the various
6 departments and agencies provided for and identified in
7 this Act shall be considered regular programs and shall be
8 funded accordingly in their annual budgets as particularly
9 provided in Sections 15, 19, and 20 of this Act.

10 SEC. 33. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for
11 the effective implementation of this Act shall be taken
12 from the appropriations of the BFAR. Thereafter, such
13 amount as may be needed for the continued
14 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual
15 General Appropriations Act (GAA).

16 SEC. 34. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this
17 Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other
18 provisions of this Act not affected by such declaration shall
19 remain in full force and effect.

1 SEC. 35. *Repealing Clause.* – Sections 3 and 5 of
2 Republic Act No. 8172 or the “ASIN Law” are modified
3 accordingly. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations
4 or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions
5 of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

6 SEC. 36. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect
7 fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the
8 *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general
9 circulation.

 Approved,