

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 994



Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Ilocos Region is considered the major producer of garlic in the Philippines, accounting for 65 percent of the country's average total production of 14,695.29 metric tons.¹ The Province of Ilocos Norte has maintained its rank as the top producing province in the country contributing 55.7% or 4,161 metric tons to the national aggregates.²

Ilocos Norte has consistently produced more than 4,000 metric tons of garlic every year since recovering from the 2016 downfall in production due to pest and disease infestations.³ The province also devotes 1,880 hectares of land devoted to garlic farming.⁴

Thus, in recognition of its status as the biggest producer of garlic in the country, this bill seeks to declare Ilocos Norte as the "Garlic Capital of the Philippines." Such declaration will serve as an inspiration to boost garlic production in the country and ensure competitiveness in both domestic and foreign markets.

In light of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


ANGELO MARCOS BARBA

¹ Gumapac, M.A. Garlic: Expanding what we know and what we should. *Bureau of Agricultural Research*. Retrieved November 26, 2020, from <https://bar.gov.ph/index.php>

² DA-RFO Annual Report 2019, p. 19

³ Department of Agriculture Ilocos Region Annual Report 2018, p. 17

⁴ Micua, I. (14 August 2017). Garlic, 'white gold' of Ilocos Region. *Philippine News Agency*. Retrieved November 26, 2020, from <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1006060>

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**AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE AS THE
GARLIC CAPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the
Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote and support the garlic industry in the country and ensure competitiveness in both domestic and foreign markets.

To this end, the State shall recognize the importance of sustaining and enhancing garlic production as a driver of economic development because garlic self-sufficiency can tremendously increase the country's export earnings and provide livelihood to our farmers.

SECTION 2. Ilocos Norte as the Garlic Capital of the Philippines. – In recognition of its status as the country's biggest producer of garlic, the Province of Ilocos Norte is hereby declared the Garlic Capital of the Philippines

SECTION 3. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,