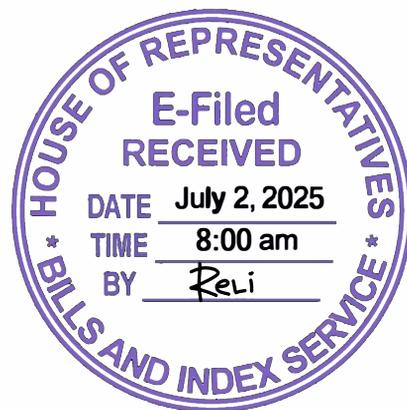


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 1059

Introduced by Representative GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

AN ACT
URGING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND EXPORT
PROMOTION OF THE MORINGA (MORINGA OLEIFERA), LOCALLY KNOWN
AS "MALUNGGAY", AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Moringa oleifera, locally known as "malunggay," is widely recognized as a nutrient-dense and drought-resistant plant with numerous health, agricultural, and economic benefits. It is rich in vitamins A, C, and E, calcium, potassium, iron, and protein, making it a vital source of nutrition, especially in low-income communities.

In the Philippines, malunggay has long been used in traditional medicine and as a household staple. However, despite its established local presence and high potential for value-added processing, export, and commercial cultivation, national policies for its development and promotion remain fragmented and underfunded.

This bill seeks to establish a comprehensive national policy to support research and development of moringa-based products, encourage commercial propagation and farming of malunggay in suitable areas, promote its health, nutritional, and economic benefits through inter-agency coordination, and develop a globally competitive export strategy for malunggay and its derivatives.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
2nd District, Pampanga

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Moringa Development Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to develop and promote a globally competitive moringa industry with the objective of increasing moringa farmers, income, addressing the nutritional and health needs of our people, and encouraging trade and industry.

SECTION 3. *Development of Moringa.* - The Department of Agriculture (DA), in consultation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), moringa growers' cooperatives and organizations, local government units, and the private sector, shall formulate a one-year framework to be validated and updated annually. Such framework shall serve as guide to the formulation and implementation of plans, programs and projects for the production, marketing, processing and distribution of moringa for food and commercial needs, as envisioned in this Act. The framework shall likewise provide for the following:

a. National Framework - The DA, DOST, state universities and colleges (SUCs) and other stakeholders shall strengthen the conduct of research on moringa particularly on areas of crop improvement, crop protection, harvesting and postharvest handling supply chain analysis, marketing and promotion;

b. Investment Promotion and Facilitation - The DA and DTI shall develop programs establishing links between stakeholders in the moringa industry and Government Financial Institutions (GFIs) and other financial cooperatives. The

DA and DTI shall likewise develop and implement programs that would establish reasonable and innovative investment incentive to attract more players in the moringa industry;

c. Export Promotion Support - An integrated and strategic export promotion program for moringa industry shall be created. The export promotion program shall be responsive to market conditions, needs of the exporters, and possibilities offered by new products and technologies. It shall likewise provide foreign trade and export promotion activities through trainings, technical assistance, capacity building, generating awareness on export opportunities and export planning assistance;

d. Strengthen Trade Policies and Support Network - The DA shall be responsible in coordinating a consultative approach for the various stages of the trade policy making process. The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) shall lead the negotiation of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to provide a competitive environment for moringa exports abroad; and

e. Monitoring and Evaluation - The DA shall continuously monitor, track, and analyze the progress and outcomes of the programs to be implemented to determine over-all effectiveness.

SECTION 4. *Designating the Department of Agriculture-High Value Crops Development Program (DA-HVCDP) as the Office in Charge in the Development of the Moringa Industry* – The DA-HVCDP is hereby tasked to implement the development of the Moringa Industry. The Department of Agriculture shall allocate an annual budget to said office pursuant to its additional task of developing the Moringa Industry.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA). Thereafter, such funds as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the succeeding annual GAA.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,