

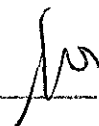
SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



15 AUG 25 P2:41

SENATE

S.B. NO. 2914

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **SENATOR FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANANA RESEARCH CENTER IN PANABO CITY, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE TO BE KNOWN AS THE ANTONIO O. FLORENDO, SR. BANANA RESEARCH CENTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Explanatory Note

This bill seeks to establish the Philippine National Banana Research Center in Panabo City, Province of Davao del Norte to be known as the Antonio O. Floirendo, Sr. Banana Research Center.

Davao del Norte is the country's leading producer of bananas. In fact, it is known as the Banana Capital of the Philippines because of its vast banana plantations, with a total land area of 36,153 hectares. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, Davao del Norte produces 1,591,008 metric tons of bananas a year.

Despite this booming economic growth, local banana growers and producers have voiced their concerns on the banana industry's sustainability. Hence, there is a pressing need to put up a banana research center that will undertake scientific research and analysis to further develop the industry, and will address the vital issues of food security and stability of the banana production.

This bill seeks to establish the Philippine National Banana Research Center, to be named after the "Banana Magnate" of the Philippines, Antonio Floirendo Sr., who was instrumental in transforming vast track of lands in Mindanao into fruits-for-export plantation, especially bananas. This specialized banana research center shall be responsible for the conduct of comprehensive studies and scientific approaches to attain sustainable banana farming.

The establishment of the Antonio O. Floirendo, Sr. Banana Research Center is a concrete response towards addressing concerns in the banana industry such as prevention of diseases that infest banana farms, improved farming techniques and post-harvest practices as well as the exploration of potential banana varieties.

This piece of legislation is a fitting recognition of Antonio Floirendo, Sr.'s contributions to the progressive banana industry in the country.

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


FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.

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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 National*
2 *Banana Research Center Act.*”

3 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the
4 State to promote industrialization and full employment based on sound
5 agricultural development and agrarian reform through industries that make full
6 and efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are competitive in
7 both domestic and foreign markets. Toward this end, the establishment of a
8 national banana research center is necessary in order to develop a more
9 balanced and integrated program for the banana industry and to have a
10 specialized institution which shall undertake research programs and provide
11 relevant, efficient, and strategic approaches to enhance banana productivity
12 in the country and improve the livelihood of banana farmers.

13 SEC. 3. **Philippine National Banana Research Center.** – The Philippine
14 National Banana Research Center, hereinafter referred to as the Center, is
15 hereby established in Panabo City, Province of Davao del Norte under the
16 Department of Agriculture to provide research and development techniques for

1 crop improvement, protection, production, post-harvest handling and the
2 maintenance of germplasm collection and gene bank that are capable of
3 producing good quality varieties of banana.

4 The Center shall be known as the Antonio O. Floirendo, Sr. Banana
5 Research Center in recognition of the many contributions made by Antonio O.
6 Floirendo, Sr. to the banana industry in the country.

7 SEC. 4. **Duties and Functions.** – The Center shall exercise the following
8 duties and functions:

9 a) Integrate, collate and support research programs and studies on
10 the banana industry;

11 b) Conduct continuing research on developing productive, high
12 yielding, disease-resistant and good varieties of banana;

13 c) Conduct comprehensive studies and research on banana diseases
14 and how to efficiently and effectively address the same;

15 d) Undertake research and generate relevant, efficient, cost-
16 effective, and scientific approaches to achieve sustainable banana farming;

17 e) Establish and maintain germplasm collection and gene bank for
18 banana;

19 f) Accelerate the transfer of improved banana technologies to
20 farmers and other stakeholders through on-farm research;

21 g) Upgrade the skills of development facilitators and banana farmers
22 through trainings, seminars and workshops on farming techniques, banana
23 production and postharvest handling and processing;

24 h) Establish national and international linkages for banana research,
25 development and production activities;

26 i) Coordinate with local government units, non-government
27 organizations and the private sector involved in the development of the
28 banana industry; and

1 j) Receive and manage grants, aid, donations or any kind of
2 assistance from donors, either foreign or domestic, to achieve the Center's
3 objectives.

4 **SEC. 5. Executive Director.** – The Center shall be headed by an Executive
5 Director who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the
6 recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture. The Executive Director shall be
7 a recognized agriculturist with experience in banana research development or
8 a specialist banana grower actively involved in banana farming and production
9 technologies.

10 All other officers and employees of the Center shall be appointed by the
11 Secretary of Agriculture upon the recommendation of the Executive Director
12 and in accordance with existing Civil Service law and rules and regulations.

13 **SEC. 6. Duties and Responsibilities.** – The Executive Director shall exercise
14 the following duties and responsibilities:

15 a) Exercise over-all supervision and direction over the implementation
16 of all research and development programs of the Center and in general to
17 supervise and direct its management, operation and administration;

18 b) Execute contracts, incur obligations, acquire and dispose of assets
19 and deliver documents on behalf of the Center;

20 c) Approve the organizational structure, staffing pattern, operating
21 and capital expenditures of the Center;

22 d) Recommend the appointment of the officers and employees of
23 the Center on the basis of the highest possible standards of merit and fitness for
24 public servants subject to the civil service laws, rules and regulations;

25 e) Implement and enforce policies, decisions, orders, rules and
26 regulations issued by the Department of Agriculture; and

27 f) Exercise such other powers and functions and perform such other
28 duties as may be authorized, delegated, or assigned by law.

1 SEC. 7. **Annual Report.** – The Executive Director shall submit to the
2 President of the Philippines, through the Secretary of Agriculture, an annual
3 report generally dealing with the activities and operations of the Center,
4 together with the audit report on the relevant accounts.

5 SEC. 8. **Donations and Solicitations.** – The Center may solicit and receive
6 donations or endowments of money, property or services which shall be exempt
7 from income or gift taxes and all other taxes, charges or fees imposed by the
8 government or any political subdivision or instrumentality thereof.

9 Government corporations are hereby authorized to give grants to the
10 Center from the unimpaired surplus of funds at their discretion.

11 SEC. 9. **Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the implementation of
12 this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the Department of
13 Agriculture. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the operation and
14 maintenance of the Center shall be included in the annual General
15 Appropriations Act.

16 SEC. 10. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days from
17 the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the necessary
18 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

19 SEC. 11. **Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part of this Act is
20 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not
21 affected shall remain in full force and effect.

22 SEC. 12. **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and
23 regulations and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the
24 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

25 SEC. 13. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
26 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) national newspapers of general
27 circulation.

28 Approved,