

Republic of the Philippines
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY
Cotabato City

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Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Parliament
BILLS AND INDEX DIVISION
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SECOND PARLIAMENT
First Regular Session

Name: PAZAR, RAIHANAH S. Signature: [Signature]
Date: SEP 27 2022 Time: 9:40 AM

Parliament Bill No. 80

Introduced by
MP AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL
Co-authored by
**ATTY. LAISA MASUHUD ALAMIA, ENGR. BANTAN A. AMPATUAN,
ATTY. RASOL Y. MITMUG, JR., ATTY. SUHARTO M. AMBOLODITO, RASUL E.
ISMAEL, ENGR. DON MUSTAPHA A. LOONG**

AN ACT
INCENTIVIZING SEAWEED FARMING IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS
REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Among the flora in Asia Pacific Regions, the Philippine seaweed is exceptionally diverse. It is the primary commodity produced by the Philippine fisheries and aquaculture sector with 1.499 million metric tons. It is also the second top export commodity contributing 33.33% to the total fisheries production in 2020. The gross value of seaweed production in 2020 amounted to 10.60 billion pesos.¹

The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) shares 46.5% of the total aquaculture production of seaweed, making them the top producer in the Philippines. The total production of BARMM for aquaculture increased by 2.19 percent during the first quarter of 2021, that is from 213,228.43 metric tons (MT) in Q1 2020 to 217,900.97 MT in Q1 2021. About 83.28 percent of the total aquaculture production in BARMM was composed of seaweeds. Its production increased by 6.29 percent between the first quarters of 2020 and 2021.²

Seaweed farming is the primary livelihood source for coastal villagers, particularly in the BARMM. It is considered a family venture involving nearly all family members, including children. It utilizes between 100,000-200,000 labors, where 90% are seaweed farmers, and the rest are seaweed processors and traders.³

¹ PSA, 2020.

² BFAR, 2021.

³ BFAR, 2010.

Farming of seaweeds is usually dependent on the availability of capital in order to start farming. In Tawi-Tawi, one of the problems that hindered farmers from intensifying seaweed farming was the lack of capital and government support, which resulted in low socio-economic status.

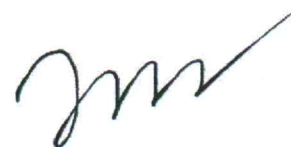
This measure seeks to reduce the wealth inequality in the seaweed value chain and create shared value among the private companies and local communities in the BARMM by institutionalizing the Seaweed Farming Development Program. This program shall make use of science-based technologies in the promotion and development of the seaweed farming industry in the region.

This proposed bill will incentivize the region's seaweed farmers through the improvement of their production and productivity. This includes seaweed farming extension services, skills development, provision of production inputs, equipment, facilities, and infrastructure for production and post-production activities. This also provides for business support and development services, particularly in the areas of access to markets, marketing, and networking.

It focuses on generating equitable and sustainable relations between the vulnerable seaweed farmers, and influence local policies and practices in the seaweed farming industry. This proposed bill will support the region's poorest and most vulnerable communities through sustainable rural development, access to markets, the collaboration between public and private sectors, and microfinance.

It will also incorporate into the program measures to strengthen the seaweed farmers' entrepreneurial and decision-making skills by helping them craft a trade agreement to access markets and fair prices that will help reduce wealth inequality, develop a competitive and desirable marketing agreement among seaweed farmers, processors, and traders, and implement measures on sound environmental management, addressing both sustainable seaweed farming and marine conservation.

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



AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL
Member of the Parliament

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REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*BARMM Seaweed Farming Development Act of 2022*”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy and Principles. – It is the declared policy of the Bangsamoro government to achieve sustainable modern agriculture by helping the seaweed farming communities to reach their full potential, increasing seaweed farmers’ incomes, thereby improving their quality of life.

In pursuance of this policy, the Bangsamoro government shall strengthen the seaweed farming industry by establishing a comprehensive and holistic approach in the formulation, coordination, and implementation of seaweed farming development initiatives, and intensifying the building of an entrepreneurship culture among seaweed farmers in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region.

Section 3. Seaweed Farming Development Program. – There is hereby established the Seaweed Farming Development Program, herein referred to as the Program, which shall refer to the comprehensive set of objectives, targets, and holistic approach in promoting the seaweed farming in the BARMM. It shall be integrated and be made consistent with the plans, programs, activities, and projects of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform.

The Program shall make use of science-based technologies in the promotion and development of the seaweed farming industry.

The forms of assistance to be provided under the Program shall include:

- a. Improvement of production and productivity, including seaweed farming extension services, skills development, provision of production inputs, equipment, facilities, and infrastructure for production and post-production activities;
- b. Improvement of farmers' access to financing in the form of credit grants;
- c. Provision of access to improved technologies through research and development; and
- d. Provision of business support and development services, particularly in the areas of access to markets, marketing, and networking.

Section 4. *Coverage of the Program.* – The Program shall cover the following areas:

- a. Seaweed farming, including the processing of seaweed and seaweed-based products;
- b. Acquisition of seedlings, and seaweed farming equipment and machinery;
- c. Procurement of seaweed harvest for storage, trading, processing, and distribution;
- d. Construction, acquisition, and repair of facilities for production, processing storage, transportation, communication, marketing, and such other facilities in support of seaweed farming;
- e. Working capital for seaweed farmers to enable them to engage in seaweed farming-related economic activities;
- f. Agribusiness activities that support ecology enhancing activities; and
- g. Credit guarantees on uncollateralized loans to seaweed farmers.

Section 5. *Beneficiaries of the Program.* – The possible beneficiaries of the Program are the following:

- a. Seaweed farmers and seaweed farming groups who have the potential to increase their marketable surplus;
- b. Seaweed farmers and seaweed farming groups who have the potential to produce marketable surplus and demonstrate the willingness to voluntarily organize with other individuals or groups to execute agreements with buyers or private intermediaries;
- c. Seaweed farmers and seaweed farming groups that are either operational and/or show a willingness to undergo capacity building on enterprise development and management; and
- d. Micro, small, and medium-scale processors, consolidators, exporters, and other enterprises who are willing to invest, assist, or execute formal business and marketing agreements with seaweed farmers.

Section 6. *Implementing Agency.* – The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR) shall be the implementing agency of the Program. It shall collaborate with and secure the technical support and assistance of other ministries and their attached agencies such as the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy (MENRE), the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), the Ministry of Trade,

Investments, and Tourism (MTIT), and the Ministry of Interior and Local Government (MILG).

Section 7. *Seaweed Farmers Development Council.* – To oversee the proper implementation of the Program, the Seaweed Farmers Development Council is hereby created. It shall be composed of: a. The Minister of the MAFAR, or his duly authorized representative, who shall be the Chair; b. a representative of the MTIT; c. a representative of the MILG; d. a representative of the Ministry of Finance, Budget, and Management (MFBM); e. a representative of a recognized regional seaweed farmers' cooperative or association; and f. one representative each representing the seaweed traders sector and seaweed processors sector.

Section 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the passage of this Act, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform, in close coordination with the Ministry of Trade, Investments, and Tourism, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

Section 9. *Appropriations.* – Such sums as may be necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current appropriations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform. Thereafter, the fund necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act of the Bangsamoro.

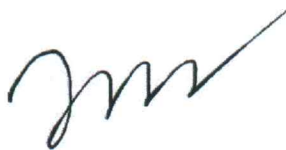
Section 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders or issuances, or any parts thereof which are inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 12. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the region.

Adopted,

AUTHOR:



AMILBAHAR S. MAWALLIL
Member of the Parliament

Certified correct:

PROF. RABY B. ANGKAL
Secretary-General

Attested by:

HON. PANGALIAN M. BALINDONG
Speaker