

1ST SALT CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
PANGASINAN STATE UNIVERSITY, LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN
NOVEMBER 26-27, 2022

RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE REVITALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE SALT INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, salt is a basic commodity and an essential ingredient for home cooking, food processing, water treatment, feed ingredients, and natural fertilizers for the coconut industry, among others;

WHEREAS, the Philippines, although an archipelagic country with 36,000 kilometers of shoreline, imports around 550,000 metric tons of salt every year which constitutes around 93% of the country's salt requirement;

WHEREAS, a myriad of factors contributed to the decline of the salt industry, including an outdated policy regime; conversion of agricultural lands suitable for salt production into other uses due to urbanization; lack of government processes that facilitate the ease of doing business; low quality control and product improvement; limited development of new production areas; unattractive business environment for small, medium and large salt producing enterprises; lack of new investments; lack of readily available construction materials, equipment, and support facilities; lack of financial and technical government support; climate change; tariff reduction; mandatory iodization; and VAT on iodized salt, despite being an essential food item;

WHEREAS, the decline of the salt industry resulted in the loss of livelihood, closure of businesses, loss of millions of potential government revenue, loss of foreign exchange due to importation, food insecurity, and underutilization of our vast shoreline's salt producing capacity, severely affecting the whole country, especially salt farmers and the marginalized sectors;

WHEREAS, the Philippine salt industry is one of the most environmentally friendly agriculture industries which has the potential to generate 100,000 grassroots green jobs, save millions of dollars in foreign exchange, and create billions in local revenues;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to revitalize the Philippine salt industry and prevent the country's full dependence on imported salt by harnessing the country's underutilized shorelines – its natural environmental advantage;

WHEREAS, institutionalizing an orchestrated whole-of-nation, whole-of-society, and whole-of-government approach to develop innovative salt farms and increasing the local production of authentic Philippine sea salt will support not only the food processing subsector, but will also increase salt production to benefit agriculture, livestock, chemical, and other value-adding downstream industries;

WHEREAS, the government must lead the way in stimulating the local salt industry by supporting Filipino salt farmers in mainstreaming their products in local and export markets; providing access to needed technologies to ensure authenticity, traceability and food safety; providing means for salt farmers to develop new production areas and utilize appropriate technologies to scale-up local production that can reduce the need for

importations; and effectively engaging the private sector to leverage investments to ensure sustainability;

WHEREAS, the private sector has an indispensable role in the revitalization of the Philippine salt industry, especially in securing investments, fostering innovation, stimulating competition and economic growth, creating jobs, and providing goods and services, among others;

WHEREAS, a comprehensive salt industry roadmap, initiated by the private sector and supported by the government, is needed to serve as an overarching policy to address the currently declining state of the Philippine salt industry;

WHEREAS, there is a need to pass significant legislation that will enable the government and all stakeholders to work towards the much-needed revitalization of the local salt industry;

WHEREAS, there are already proposed measures relating to the salt industry filed in the House of Representatives, including House Bill No. 1976, which was a product of consultations with stakeholders, House Bill No. 5537, and House Bill No. 5676, as well as Senate Bill No. 1334 in the Senate;

WHEREAS, the First Philippine Salt Congress 2022 – spearheaded by the Pangasinan State University from the academe, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources from the government sector, Philippine Association of Salt Industry Networks (PhilASIN) and Tamaraw Salt Producers Cooperative (TAMACO) from the private sector, and KABAYAN Partylist – aims to ignite the wheel of innovation and revive the salt industry by putting legislative and administrative proposals, and latest research and technological developments on salt production into the limelight and act as an avenue for various stakeholders to collaborate towards a productive, innovative, competitive, and resilient Philippine salt industry;

WHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the First Salt Congress of the Philippines commit to championing the revitalization of the salt industry by raising awareness on the current state of the Philippine salt industry, adopting and implementing the Philippine Salt Industry Roadmap as the overarching policy to address the declining state of the local salt industry, supporting the immediate passage of House Bill No. 1976 including its enhancements, and collaborating with stakeholders from the public and private sector, to ultimately attain increased income for salt farmers and salt producers, and allow the country to achieve salt self-sufficiency and become a net exporter of salt.

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- 3 Vicky MONTEROLA
- 4 Jessie Monterola
- 5 GRACE S. MONTEROLA
- 6 Purhisa P. Clavero
- 7 Alexander M. Arua
- 8 KELVIN B. BELARU
- 9 EDWIN ODEA CRUZ
- 10 ANTONIO M. UAD SR.
- 11 HAZEL RAY
- 12 KIP JIOMNE BRUAN
- 13 MARY DANIELE FERRER
- 14 MARRY JAN M. DELOS SANTOS
- 15 RYAN CHRISTOPHER PERLAS
- 16 Flordeliza U. de Vera
- 17 Jam Camille B. Rolueta
- 18 FELIX DV. BERNALES JR.
- 19 LEILA BERNALES
- 20 ROMILYN IGNACIO
- 21 Rodolfo Ignacio
- 22 Jessica Dumaan
- 23 Fooby Bautista
- 24 Norberto C. Reyes
- 25 MA. ROMHELYN BORLONGAN
- 26 MA. NATIVIDAD BORLONGAN
- 27 ROMEO T. BORLONGAN

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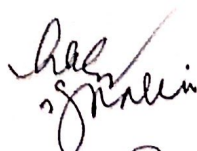


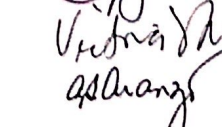

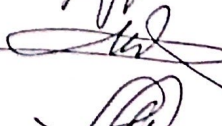







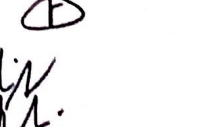





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| 28 | Rensy Snaided |  |
| 29 | Gamara Gloria Molina |  |
| 30 | Domingo, Jessy C |  |
| 31 | Carlina Canga Nabea |  |
| 32 | Messa S. B. Papada |  |
| 33 | VICTORIA M. BILDO | Victoria M. B. Bildo |
| 34 | ANGELITA B. ARANZASO | Angelita B. Aranzaso |
| 35 | ARNEL N. SALES |  |
| 36 | Edgardo N. Cabusora |  |
| 37 | FREDERICO L. NOLLA |  |
| 38 | Gray Licayan |  |
| 39 | Shenlyn R. Bustillo |  |
| 40 | Imedio Docil Jr. |  |
| 41 | Princess C. De Vera |  |
| 42 | RON P. SALA |  |
| 43 | Valera C. Manant |  |
| 44 | Randy F. Sauron |  |
| 45 | APRIL G. SANTOS |  |
| 46 | Rene Arumto |  |
| 47 | Gerald Vargas |  |
| 48 | Eleamaric Aquino |  |
| 49 | Nett Libardo | |
| 50 | Rachelle Oru | |