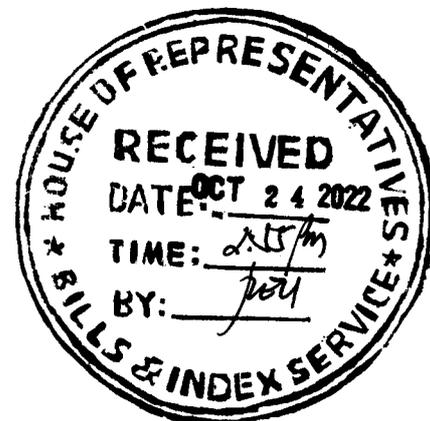


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5676



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Introduced by Representative Wilbert T. Lee

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**AN ACT  
DEFINING SALT AS AN AQUATIC RESOURCE AND ESTABLISHING A  
COMPREHENSIVE SALT INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM,  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8550, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS "THE PHILIPPINE FISHERIES CODE OF 1998," AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Constitution, Art. XII, Section 1, provides:

The goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged.

The State shall promote industrialization and full employment based on sound agricultural development and agrarian reform, through industries that make full of efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are competitive in both domestic and foreign markets. However, the State shall protect Filipino enterprises against unfair foreign competition and trade practices.

In the pursuit of these goals, all sectors of the economy and all regions of the country shall be given optimum opportunity to develop. Private enterprises, including corporations, cooperatives, and similar collective organizations, shall be encouraged to broaden the base of their ownership.

It has recently been revealed by the Department of Agriculture that more than ninety percent (90%) of salt for consumption and/or industrial use is imported. This irony and national dilemma confront us considering that we are an archipelago surrounded by saltwater.

There are several reasons for this. First is that many of our coasts have become unfit for salt farming due to pollution, coastal erosion, or other environmental or climate change-

related reasons. Second is that many of our coasts were developed for tourism or other commercial purposes. Finally, there is no holistic government initiative or program to address the pressing and long-standing concerns of the salt industry. As such, there is also a lack of incentive mechanisms for investors to enter and invest in our local salt-production industry.

To say that salt is essential to our economy is an extreme understatement. It is used in all households and in many industries including our agricultural and manufacturing sectors. If we continue to import salt, our economy will be at the mercy of foreign salt producers and the fluctuations of foreign currency exchange rates. By developing our local salt production industry, we would be able to provide jobs for Filipinos, especially in fishing communities, and even become exporters ourselves which will provide additional revenue to our economy.

This bill recognizes salt as an aquatic resource. As such, it is integrated into the core function of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. This representation humbly introduces reforms relating to the protection and development of aquatic resources to the salt industry taking into consideration the pressing challenges they face that continue to be detrimental to their industry. We also included a clear mandate to the existing government agencies to aggressively identify Potential Salt Production Areas (SPAs) to increase our local production and come up with incentives for investors in the industry.

Given its current status, Salt as an aquatic resource shall be given utmost focus but shall capitalize on the existing mandates and policies such as Republic Act 8172, otherwise known as the Act for Salt Iodization Nationwide (ASIN LAW), which does not require a separate council or bureau for the development of the salt industry. Therefore, this measure provides for the establishment of the Philippine Salt Industry Development Task Force which shall be responsible for the formulation and implementation of the Philippine Salt Industry Development Roadmap which shall guide the development and protection of our local salt production industry.

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



**HON. WILBERT T. LEE**  
Representative  
AGRI PARTYLIST

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
**First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 5676

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Introduced by **Representative Wilbert T. Lee**

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**AN ACT**  
**DEFINING SALT AS AN AQUATIC RESOURCE AND ESTABLISHING A**  
**COMPREHENSIVE SALT INDUSTRY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM,**  
**AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8550, OTHERWISE**  
**KNOWN AS "THE PHILIPPINE FISHERIES CODE OF 1998," AND FOR**  
**OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1           **SECTION 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Salt Industry  
2 Development Act."

3           **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote  
4 and support industries that provide food security, health and nutrition, create and generate  
5 employment, reduce poverty, promote agricultural development, environmental sustainability  
6 and promote inclusive growth.

7           Towards this end, salt is hereby declared as an aquatic resource. Accordingly, State  
8 policies geared toward the protection of fisheries and other aquatic resources are extended to  
9 cover the salt resources and its production industry.

1           **SEC. 3. Objectives.** This Act aims to make the Philippine salt industry sufficient for  
2 and competitive in local and international markets while providing opportunities for local  
3 employment and establishing salt-based community enterprises by:

- 4           a. Promoting the integrated and holistic development of the salt industry in  
5           various aspects of production, processing, marketing, consumption, capacity  
6           building, research and development, modernization and regulation;
- 7           b. Ensuring that the salt industry has sufficient identified production areas  
8           through the use of technology;
- 9           c. Ensuring cooperation with various government agencies, private entities and  
10          other relevant sources, to aid in the development of the industry;
- 11          d. Promoting investments in salt farming by providing substantial and attractive  
12          incentives to investors;
- 13          e. Providing skilled labor and manpower through continuous relevant capacity  
14          building;
- 15          f. Ensuring the provision of locally manufactured machines with improved  
16          capacity, efficiency, and quality at competitive costs; and,
- 17          g. Providing access to markets of local salt locally and internationally through  
18          aggressive trade promotions;

19           **SEC. 4. Definition of Terms.** As used in this Act, the following terms are defined, as  
20 follows:

- 21          a. *Artisanal Sea Salt* refers to unrefined sea salt, derived directly from a living  
22          sea or ocean, harvested and cooked through a natural evaporation process: it  
23          retains natural traces of minerals depending on the source and the manner of  
24          production, which is solar evaporation, cooked or smoked.
- 25          b. *Food fortification* refers to the addition of nutrients to process food at levels  
26          above the natural state.
- 27          c. *Iodized salt* refers to salt artificially spray-coated with iodine.
- 28          d. *Large-scale Salt Farm/operator/producer* refers to:
  - 29                i)        An individual owner or leasehold of a salt farm that is more than  
30                        fifty (50) but not more than five hundred (500) hectares.
  - 31                ii)       An association, cooperative or corporation that owns or is a  
32                        leaseholder of a salt farm that is more than fifty (50) but not more  
33                        than 1,000 hectares.

- 1 e. *Medium-scale Salt Farmer/Operator/Producer* refers to an individual,  
2 association, cooperative, or corporation that owns, or is a leaseholder of, more  
3 than three (3) hectares but more than fifty (50) hectares of salt farms.
- 4 f. *Philippine sea salt* refers to salt produced from the evaporation of sea water,  
5 brine, or concentrated brine, in any salt farm or refinery within the Philippines.
- 6 g. *Salt Farm* refers to areas of land, shorelines, or coastal areas, including its  
7 buildings, machineries, and equipment used in salt production.
- 8 h. *Salt Producer* refers to an individual, corporation, cooperative, or association  
9 involved in the production of sea salt.
- 10 i. *Salt Technology Demonstration Center* refers to training facilities where salt  
11 farming, harvesting, cooking and packaging are done for the purpose of  
12 conducting hands-on training, skills enhancement, and capacity-building.
- 13 j. *Small-scale salt farmer/operator/producer* refers to an individual, association,  
14 cooperative, or corporation that owns, or is a leaseholder of, a salt farm of not  
15 more than three (3) hectares.

16 **SEC. 5. Salt as Aquatic Resource.** For purposes of this Act, the following provisions  
17 of Republic Act No. 8550, otherwise known as "The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998," are  
18 hereby amended to read as follows:

- 19 a. Section 4 is hereby amended to read as follows:

20 "SEC 4. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Code, the phrases  
21 shall mean as follows:

22 XXX

23 11. *Commercial Scale* - A scheme of producing a minimum  
24 amount per year of **SALT OR HARVEST OF** milkfish or other  
25 species including those raised in pens, cages, and tanks to be  
26 determined by the Department in consultation with the  
27 concerned sectors.

28 XXX

29 22. Fish and Fishery Aquatic Products - include not only finfish  
30 but also mollusk, crustaceans, echinoderms, marine mammals,  
31 and all other species of aquatic flora and fauna and all other  
32 products of aquatic living resources in any form, **AND SALT.**

33 XXX

1 28. Fisherfolk - people directly or personally and physically  
2 engaged in taking and/or culturing and processing fishery and  
3 aquatic resources **INCLUDING SEA SALT PRODUCED BY**  
4 **SALT FARMERS.**

5 XXX

6 32. Fishpond - a land-based facility enclosed with earthen or  
7 stone material to impound water for growing fish **AND/OR**  
8 **PRODUCING SALT.**

9  
10 XXX

11  
12 47. Fully developed Fishpond Area - a clean leveled area  
13 enclosed by dikes, at least one foot higher than the highest  
14 floodwater level in the locality and strong enough to resist  
15 pressure at the highest flood tide: consist of at least a nursery, a  
16 transition pond, a rearing pond, **RESERVOIR POND,**  
17 **EVAPORATING POND, SALT CRYSTALIZER POND,** or  
18 a combination of any or all said classes of ponds, and a  
19 functional water control system and producing in a commercial  
20 scale."

21 b. Section 46 is hereby amended to read as follows:

22 "SEC. 46. Lease of Fishponds/**FISHPOND WITH SALT**  
23 **FARMS** - Fishpond leased to qualified persons and fisherfolk  
24 organizations/cooperatives shall be subject to the following  
25 conditions:

26 xxx"

27 (c) Section 54 is hereby amended to read as follows:

28 "SEC. 54. Insurance for Fishponds, **FISHPONDS WITH**  
29 **SALT FARMS,** Fish Cages, and Fish Pens - Inland Fishponds,  
30 **INLAND FISHPONDS WITH SALT FARMS,** Fish Cages,  
31 Fish Pens shall be covered under the insurance program of the  
32 Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation for the losses caused by  
33 force majeure and fortuitous events."

1  
2       **SEC. 6. *Philippine Salt Industry Development Roadmap (PSIDR)*.** For the attainment  
3 of the objectives of this Act, there shall be formulated and established a Philippine Salt  
4 Industry Development Roadmap (Roadmap), which shall include, but not be limited to,  
5 programs, projects and interventions for the development and management, research,  
6 processing, utilization, modernization business development, and commercialization of  
7 Philippine salt. The Roadmap shall include the following objectives, among others:

- 8       a. Identify existing challenges faced by the industry and draw possible  
9       interventions;
- 10       b. Expand the number of salt-producing areas;
- 11       c. Ensure the sustainable production, management and harvesting, and soil and  
12       water conservation practices in these areas;
- 13       d. Encourage salt farming;
- 14       e. Ensure the sustainability and viability of the salt industry;
- 15       f. Promote investments in the salt industry development programs;
- 16       g. Advance market access for Philippine salt products locally and internationally;
- 17       h. Extend technical and financial assistance for the development, processing,  
18       commercialization and marketing of Philippine salt products;
- 19       i. Require that locally-produced salt be used in the fertilization of coconut farms  
20       by the Philippine Coconut Authority;
- 21       j. Develop and distinguish category of salt areas into artisan salt production  
22       areas, as gourmet salt producing areas, iodized salt producing areas, salt eco-  
23       tourism sites, etc.;
- 24       k. Address environmental and climate-change related concerns affecting the salt-  
25       production industry;
- 26       l. Introduction of the new technology based on robust research and development  
27       (R&D) activities;
- 28       m. Provide continuous training and capacity building in the salt industry  
29       development; and
- 30       n. Provide technical and financial assistance in the local design and fabrication of  
31       high-capacity processing equipment and machineries for the salt industry.

32       **SEC. 7. *Creation of the Philippine Salt Industry Development Task Force (PSIDTF)*.**  
33 To ensure the unified and integrated implementation of the PSIDR and accelerate the

1 modernization and industrialization of the Philippine Salt industry, a Philippine Salt Industry  
2 Development Task Force (PSIDTF) is hereby created with the following composition:

- 3 a. Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA), as Chairperson;
- 4 b. Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), as Co-Chairperson;
- 5 c. Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), as Co-  
6 Chairperson;
- 7 d. Director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR), as  
8 Vice Chairperson;
- 9 e. Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- 10 f. Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH);
- 11 g. Secretary of the Department of Tourism (DOT);
- 12 h. The CEO of the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP);
- 13 i. One representative each from the League of Provinces of the Philippines,  
14 League of Cities of the Philippines and League of Municipalities of the  
15 Philippines;
- 16 j. One (1) representative each from salt farmers, salt manufacturers, and salt  
17 process associations;
- 18 k. One (1) representative from the private sector is involved in a business  
19 belonging to the salt industry.

20 **SEC. 8.** *Powers and Functions of the Task Force.* The Task Force shall have the  
21 following powers and functions:

- 22 a. Formulate the Philippine Salt Industry Development Roadmap containing the  
23 short-term, medium term and long-term development plan covering a period  
24 of five (5) years;
- 25 b. Identify specific and priority programs and projects in support of, and in line  
26 with, the Roadmap;
- 27 c. Determine Potential Salt Production Areas (SPA)
- 28 d. Identify sources of financing and facilitate credit windows with government  
29 banks and the ACPC to expand the salt industry development;
- 30 e. Increase production of local salt by increasing land area devoted to salt and  
31 improving farm productivity;
- 32 f. Institutionalize capacity building for salt farmers through the Agricultural  
33 Training Institute;

- 1 g. Strengthen market linkage and promotion of Philippine salt;
- 2 h. Conduct continuing research and development on innovation and
- 3 modernization of the salt industry, including postharvest technologies and the
- 4 establishment of laboratory centers for iodization for food grade salt;
- 5 i. Establish Agri-insurance Program for Salt producers;
- 6 j. Coordinate with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- 7 (DENR) and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) on programs to protect
- 8 salt-producing areas and coastlines;
- 9 k. Submit annual reports, not later than June 30 of each year, to the Office of the
- 10 President and to each House of Congress on the status of the implementation
- 11 of the Roadmap and the salt industry development in the country;
- 12 l. Recommend to the Department of Budget and Management the required
- 13 yearly appropriations for the plan and implementation of the salt development
- 14 programs; and
- 15 m. Promulgate such rules and regulations and exercise such other powers and
- 16 functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

17 **SEC. 9.** *Philippine Salt Industry Development Task Force Project Management*  
18 *Office (PSIDTF-PMO).* A Project Management Office (PMO) is hereby created which shall  
19 be headed by the Director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR), to  
20 oversee the overall implementation of the PSIDR. The PMO will serve as the Secretariat to  
21 prepare coordinate, consolidate reports and monitor the implementation of the policies,  
22 program and project of the PSIDTF.  
23

24 **SEC. 10.** *Identification, and Declaration of Potential Salt Production Areas (SPAs).*  
25 The PSIDTF shall identify areas suitable for salt production areas within public domain, and  
26 areas with natural/rock salt deposits. A report shall be published by the Task Force for  
27 declaration of the DA Secretary as SPAs. The DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic  
28 Resources (DA-BFAR) shall facilitate the prompt registration of salt farms identified by the  
29 PSIDTF as well as assist in the design, construction, and development of small-scale  
30 artisanal salt farms, either on its own or through partnership with the private sector, while the  
31 DOST shall provide the necessary technology in the construction of large-scale salt farms  
32 employing modern technologies to increase production efficiency and environmentally-sound  
33 practices.

1 Whenever applicable and necessary, the DENR shall promptly act on the processing  
2 and issuance of permits and clearances, such as Environmental Compliance Certificates, prior  
3 to the construction of salt farms to ensure that such projects will not cause a significant  
4 negative impact on the environment. For purposes of eligibility and priority for the lease of  
5 the newly-constructed salt farms, the DA-BFAR shall promulgate criteria in the expeditious  
6 approval of SPAs, taking into consideration priority to small salt farmers and artisanal salt  
7 farmers.

8 **SEC. 11. *Fishpond Lease Agreements to Include Salt Production.*** Fishpond Lease  
9 Agreements (FLAs) shall automatically include salt farming or production as among the valid  
10 activities that may be undertaken by the leaseholder. FLA holders who intend to venture into  
11 salt farming shall be given the same support, training, and financing given to salt farmers, as  
12 provided under this Act.

13 **SEC 12. *Funding for the Development of Salt Farms, Lease of Government***  
14 ***Developed Salt Farms, and Equipment.*** – The DA-BFAR, in consultation with individuals,  
15 corporations, associations, and cooperatives from the salt industry, will allocate and provide  
16 funding and technical support needed for the maintenance, repair, and upgrading of existing  
17 salt farms and newly constructed government-funded salt projects. The funds will cover  
18 materials, dike and canal repairs, equipment, and other items specified by industry  
19 stakeholders, ensuring the continued productivity and competitiveness of the salt industry.  
20 Government financial institutions such as but not limited to, the Land Bank of the Philippines  
21 (LBP) and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), shall extend financial assistance  
22 to viable projects of eligible and credit-worthy salt farmers, cooperatives and micro, small,  
23 and medium enterprises (MSMEs) for the development, operation, and improvement of salt  
24 farms, lease of government-developed salt farms, and purchase of salt farming equipment.

25 **SEC. 13. *Exemption of exported salt and salt sold in local gourmet outlets from***  
26 ***mandatory iodization.*** Philippine sea salt exported to other countries, those to be sold to local  
27 gourmet outlets, and those to be used for other commercial applications not related to food  
28 fortification such as, but not limited to, water treatment, feeds, and chemical processing, shall  
29 be exempt from mandatory iodization provided under the provisions of Republic Act No.  
30 8172 or ASIN Law. Food manufacturers, restaurants and chefs may also be exempted in the  
31 mandatory use of iodized salt on their specific products under guidelines to be issued by the  
32 FDA when the taste or quality of the product will be significantly altered with the use of  
33 iodized salt.

1           **SEC. 14. *Capacity Development for Salt Farmers.*** – The DA, together with the  
2 DOST, DTI , FDA, and TESDA, shall provide complementary training programs to develop  
3 and enhance the skills and competencies of Philippine salt farmers and producers and  
4 agriprenuers, to ensure product traceability and compliance to food safety, technology  
5 acquisition including product labelling and packaging, conduct continuous training on market  
6 positioning for Philippine artisanal/specialty and industrial salts and such other skills  
7 necessary in the maintenance and development of the local salt industry. These agencies shall  
8 also assist the farmers to be able to effectively comply with the requirements of Republic Act  
9 No. 8172, otherwise known as “An Act for Salt Iodization Nationwide (ASIN)”.

10           **SEC. 15. *Promotion of non-traditional salt farming methodologies and techniques.***  
11 The PSIDTF is mandated to also promote alternative methods and techniques of salt farming  
12 available that allow year-round production of salt even under erratic weather patterns.

13           The introduction of the new technology will be preceded by research and  
14 development (R&D) activities, spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture- National  
15 Fisheries Research and Development Institute (DA-NFRDI), in close coordination with the  
16 DOST, proposed to the PSIDTF .

17           **SEC. 16. *Research and Development (RND).*** – The DA-NFRDI shall conduct  
18 research, either on its own or in collaboration with SUCs, to enhance the technological  
19 development, provide applicable policy direction, and develop innovative project-based  
20 interventions that may be adopted and implemented to achieve the objectives of this Act. The  
21 DA shall collaborate with DOST and DTI to provide a common fund and financial resources  
22 to the cooperatives and local enterprises for this purpose. SUCs shall also be awarded  
23 funding, grants, and subsidies to engage in research and development, extension training, and  
24 other related activities to upgrade the salt industry.

25           **SEC. 17. *Role of the Local Government Units.*** Local Government Units (LGUs) in  
26 cooperation with the DA-NFRDI , DENR, DTI and the DOST-FPRDI, and in consultation  
27 with the DA and BFAR shall identify appropriate areas for local salt production in their  
28 respective localities.

29           **SEC. 18. *Establishment of Provincial, City and Municipal Salt Industry Development***  
30 ***Task Force and Salt Industry Development Programs.*** LGUs shall, as far as practicable,  
31 establish their respective Salt Industry Development Task Force. LGUs shall regularly  
32 conduct a survey of existing salt farms and salt enterprises in their respective localities.

33           Each local Salt Industry Development Task Force shall conduct a survey of existing  
34 salt processing enterprises that are operating in the locality.

1           **SEC. 19. *Provision of Incentives to Investors involved in the Salt Development.*** The  
2 following incentives shall be provided to investors in salt farms development and salt  
3 processing facilities:

- 4           a. The Board of Investments shall classify salt farms as preferred areas of  
5 investment under its Investment Priorities Plan (IPP) subject to pertinent rules  
6 and regulations;
- 7           b. Salt farm owners, and processors and other related businesses shall be exempt  
8 from the payment of import duties for imported machines and equipment  
9 subject to pertinent rules and regulations;
- 10          c. Salt farm owners in public lands shall be exempt from the payment of forest  
11 charges that may be imposed by the national government and other fees or  
12 taxes imposed by LGUs;
- 13          d. The salt farmers and processors shall be given priority to access credit  
14 assistance and guarantee schemes being granted by GFIs; and
- 15          e. Salt farm development and their equipment shall be covered by the Philippine  
16 Crop Insurance Corporation.

17           **SEC. 20. *Control Measures.*** Under existing food and safety protocols and policies,  
18 the BFAR shall continue to implement measures ensuring compliance of salt farmers with  
19 food safety laws and guidelines intended for human and animal consumption. Provided that,  
20 salt which are not intended for food consumption shall not be subjected to food safety laws  
21 and guidelines;

22           The BFAR Regional Offices shall ensure that pure, un-iodized salt shall be issued the  
23 necessary transport permits and certification documents for the purposes it is intended.

24           **SEC. 21. *Human Resources Development.*** All stakeholders in the salt industry shall  
25 contribute to the development of a sustainable human resource for the industry. Towards this  
26 end, the DOLE, in collaboration with the duly recognized salt associations and salt  
27 cooperatives, the Commission on Higher Education, the TESDA, the Professional Regulation  
28 Commission (PRC) and the private sector, shall formulate and implement a Human  
29 Resources Development (HRD) Master Plan for the salt industry which shall include, but not  
30 limited to, the following: a) Capacity building, skills trainings, institutional strengthening of  
31 the salt farm workers, salt farmers and their organizations to actively contribute in  
32 productivity and competitiveness; b) Scholarship program for the underprivileged but  
33 deserving college and post-graduate students who are taking up courses in relevant fields of

1 discipline in SUCs which have programs in agriculture, agricultural engineering and  
2 mechanics, and chemical engineering/salt technology; and for vocational courses and skills  
3 development for farmers and farm technicians, and skilled workers in salt farms; and c)  
4 Conduct of capability training or attendance to local or international trainings and seminars  
5 by salt farmers and workers.

6 **SEC. 22. Appropriations.** An amount of One Billion Pesos (P1,000,000,000) is  
7 hereby allotted for this purpose of Research and Development especially on salt production  
8 technology the first 3 years of implementation of this Act. The amount necessary for the  
9 implementation of the other aspects of the PSIDR and this Act shall be charged to the  
10 appropriations of the agencies concerned as may be appropriated, under the current General  
11 Appropriations Act.

12 A Salt Development Fund shall be created and funded from the tariffs on salt imports.  
13 This fund shall be used to partially fund the identification, construction, and development of  
14 government-funded salt farms as specified in this Act.

15 **SEC. 23. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** Within sixty (60) days from the  
16 effectivity of this Act, The DA, the DOST and the DTI, in consultation with the members of  
17 the Task Force and other relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and  
18 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

19 **SEC. 24. Separability Clause.** Should any provision herein be declared  
20 unconstitutional or invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of  
21 this Act.

22 **SEC. 25. Congressional Oversight.** The Congressional Oversight Committee on  
23 Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization (COCAFAM) shall see to the full implementation of  
24 this Act.

25 **SEC. 26. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or other  
26 issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified  
27 accordingly.

28 **SEC. 27. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its  
29 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

30 Approved,