



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8278

BY REPRESENTATIVES SALO, GUICO, LEE, CUA, TAMBUNTING, VILLAFUERTE (L.R.), VILLAFUERTE (M.L.), HORIBATA, YAMSUAN, VILLANUEVA, YU (J.V.), YU (D.G.), TARRIELA, PLEYTO, REVILLA (R.J.), ROMUALDO, DEL MAR, CARI, RIVERA, PALMA, GARCIA (D.), SUANSING (M.A.), SUAREZ, MARAÑON, VIOLAGO, NAVA, BRIONES, GARCIA (M.A.), PANCHO, AQUINO, DE VENECIA, VERGARA, ARENAS, MOMO, CABREDO, SUANSING (H.), ZUBIRI, ORTEGA, DY (F.), LUISTRO, ESTRELLA, VARGAS-ALFONSO, QUIMBO, PUMAREN, ALBANO, BAUTISTA-LIM, ZAMORA (M.C.), ABANTE, ESPINA, BAUTISTA, SINGSON (R.V.), CAMPOS, CALDERON, LARA, GONZAGA, CAJAYON-UY, ALONTE, MATUGAS, BONGALON, ALVAREZ (J.), LOYOLA, HARESCO, CELESTE, ALVAREZ (M.), FUENTEBELLA, UMALI, YAP (ERIC), GARDIOLA, BASCUG, TAN (J.), SALI, CRUZ (R.), CRUZ (A.), EUDELA, MATIBAG, VERZOSA, CHATTO, FORTES, MACEDA, FRESNEDI, LAZATIN, ALMARIO, ASISTIO, TALLADO, GO (M.), CO-PILAR, YAP (C.), DIMAPORO (S.A.), MASTURA, HERNANDEZ, RODRIGUEZ (E.), PADUANO, DAGOOC, GUTIERREZ, ABALOS, BOSITA, ACHARON, ALVAREZ (P.), AMATONG, BIRON, CAGAS, FERRER (J.M.), GORRICETA, HAGEDORN, MALAPITAN, CO (E.), ENVERGA, FLORES, DALIPE, BORDADO, SALCEDA, CASTRO (F.) AND CASTRO (J.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT No. 587

AN ACT

REVITALIZING THE SALT INDUSTRY, CREATING A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDING INCENTIVES TO SALT FARMERS, PRODUCERS AND EXPORTERS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 the policy of the State to promote industrialization
4 and full employment based on sound agricultural development through industries that make
5 full and efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are competitive in both
6 domestic and foreign markets. For this purpose, the State shall provide support through
7 appropriate technology and research, and adequate financial, production, marketing, and other
8 support services to revitalize the salt industry, attain increased income for salt farmers and salt
9 producers, achieve salt self-sufficiency, and become a net exporter of salt.

1 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

2 (a) **Artisanal Salt** refers to unrefined sea salt, derived directly from a living sea or
3 ocean, harvested and cooked through a natural evaporation process. It retains natural
4 traces of minerals depending on the source and the manner of production, such as solar
5 evaporation, cooked, or smoked;

6 (b) **Food-grade salt** refers to salt for human and animal consumption;

7 (c) **Iodized Salt** refers to any type of salt artificially spray-coated with iodine;

8 (d) **Industrial salt** refers to salt used in the treatment, processing, and/or manufacture
9 of non-food commercial products;

10 (e) **Philippine sea salt** refers to salt produced from the evaporation of seawater, brine,
11 or concentrated brine in any salt farm within the Philippines;

12 (f) **Salt Farm** refers to areas of land, shorelines, or coastal areas, including its buildings,
13 machineries, and equipment used for salt production. Salt farms may be classified
14 according to sizes as follows:

15 (i) **Small-scale salt farm** – salt farm of not more than three (3) hectares;

16 (ii) **Medium-scale Salt Farm** – salt farm of more than three (3) hectares but not
17 more than fifty (50) hectares; and

18 (iii) **Large-scale Salt Farm** – salt farm owned or leased by individuals that is
19 more than fifty (50) but not more than five hundred (500) hectares, or salt farm
20 owned or leased by an association, cooperative or corporation that is more than
21 fifty (50) but not more than one thousand (1,000) hectares; and

22 (g) **Salt Producer** refers to an individual, corporation, cooperative, or association
23 involved in the production of sea salt.

24 **SEC. 4. Philippine Salt Industry Roadmap.** – For the attainment of the objectives of
25 this Act, there shall be formulated and established a Philippine Salt Industry Development
26 Roadmap (“Roadmap”), which shall include, but not be limited to, programs, projects,
27 interventions and incentives for the development and management, research, processing,
28 utilization, modernization business development, and commercialization of Philippine salt.
29 The Roadmap shall include the following objectives, among others:

30 (a) Increase salt production in order to attain salt self-sufficiency, and become a net
31 exporter of salt;

32 (b) Encourage salt farming and expand the number of salt-producing areas;

33 (c) Ensure the sustainable production, management and harvesting, and soil and water
34 conservation practices in salt-farming areas;

- 1 (d) Promote public and private investments in the salt industry development programs;
- 2 (e) Ensure the sustainability and viability of the salt industry through the establishment
- 3 of cooperatives among salt farmers and salt producers in order to optimize local
- 4 production and improve access to government interventions, assistance, and incentives;
- 5 (f) Advance market access for Philippine salt products locally and internationally;
- 6 (g) Extend technical and financial assistance for the development, processing,
- 7 commercialization, and marketing of Philippine salt products;
- 8 (h) Develop and distinguish category of salt areas into artisanal salt production areas,
- 9 as gourmet salt producing areas, iodized salt producing areas, salt ecotourism sites, and
- 10 similar sites or areas, and provide appropriate incentives;
- 11 (i) Introduce new salt development technology based on robust research and
- 12 development (R&D) activities;
- 13 (j) Provide continuous training and capacity building in the salt industry development;
- 14 (k) Provide technical and financial assistance in the local design and fabrication of
- 15 high-capacity processing equipment and machineries for the salt industry;
- 16 (l) Adopt a program for the active formation of cooperatives of salt farmers pursuant
- 17 to Section 21 of this Act; and
- 18 (m) Support R&D activities for salt revitalization.

19 **SEC. 5. *Creation of the Philippine Salt Industry Development Council.*** – To ensure

20 the unified and integrated implementation of the Roadmap and accelerate the modernization

21 and industrialization of the Philippine Salt industry, a Philippine Salt Industry Development

22 Council (PSIDC) is hereby created with the following composition:

- 23 (a) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA), as Chairperson;
- 24 (b) Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), as Co-Chairperson;
- 25 (c) Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), as
- 26 Vice-Chairperson;
- 27 Members:
- 28 (d) Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
- 29 (e) Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH);
- 30 (f) Secretary of the Department of Tourism;
- 31 (g) Chairperson of the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA);
- 32 (h) Chairperson of the National Economic and Development Authority;
- 33 (i) Director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR);
- 34 (j) Chief Executive Officer of the Land Bank of the Philippines;

- 1 (k) One representative each from the League of Provinces of the Philippines, League
2 of Cities of the Philippines, and League of Municipalities of the Philippines;
- 3 (l) One (1) representative from the private sector engaged in salt-production business;
- 4 (m) One (1) representative from the salt farmers or workers;
- 5 (n) One (1) representative from the salt farmer cooperatives; and
- 6 (o) One (1) representative from the private sector engaged in a business belonging to
7 the local salt industry, other than farming and production.

8 **SEC. 6. *Functions of the PSIDC.*** – The PSIDC shall have the following powers and
9 functions:

- 10 (a) Formulate the Philippine Salt Industry Development Roadmap containing the short-
11 term, medium-term, and long-term development plan;
- 12 (b) Identify specific and priority programs and projects in support of, and in line with
13 the Roadmap;
- 14 (c) Provide development funds, technical assistance and equipment to salt farmers and
15 the industry. The support shall be commensurate to the size of the salt farm;
- 16 (d) Undertake the construction, through the DA-BFAR, of new small scale artisanal
17 salt farms;
- 18 (e) Identify sources of financing and facilitate credit windows with government banks
19 and the Agricultural Credit Policy Council to expand the salt industry development;
- 20 (f) Increase production of local salt by increasing land area devoted to salt and
21 improving farm productivity;
- 22 (g) Institutionalize capacity building for salt farmers through the Agricultural Training
23 Institute;
- 24 (h) Strengthen market linkage and promotion of Philippine salt;
- 25 (i) Conduct continuing R&D on innovation and modernization of the salt industry;
- 26 (j) Establish an Agri-Insurance Program for Salt producers;
- 27 (k) Establish parameters and guidelines when domestically-produced salt may be
28 subjected to mandatory salt iodization under the provisions of Republic Act (RA)
29 No. 8172, otherwise known as “An Act for Salt Iodization Nationwide (ASIN),.
30 Such parameters shall include the level of iodine deficiency among Filipinos and
31 the degree of recovery of the domestic salt industry;
- 32 (l) Establish parameters and guidelines when imported salt may be exempted from
33 mandatory salt iodization under the provisions of RA No. 8172. Such parameters

1 shall include the level of iodine deficiency among Filipinos and the degree of
2 recovery of the domestic salt industry;

3 (m) Recommend to the Department of Budget and Management the required yearly
4 appropriations for the plan and implementation of the salt development programs;

5 (n) Submit annual reports, not later than June 30 of each year, to the Office of the
6 President and to each House of Congress, on the status of the implementation of the
7 Roadmap and the salt industry development in the country; and

8 (o) Promulgate such rules and regulations, and exercise such other powers and
9 functions, as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

10 **SEC 7. Program Management Office and Secretariat.** – The DA-BFAR shall lead in
11 the industry strengthening, expansion and promotion of the Salt Industry. Toward this end, a
12 Program Management Office (PMO) is hereby created under the Office of the Director of the
13 BFAR to oversee the overall implementation of the salt industry development roadmap as
14 well as the conduct of regular monitoring of its execution by the implementing agencies
15 and/or partners.

16 The Secretariat is also hereby created under the PMO and shall perform functions such
17 as coordinating and managing the regular meetings of the PSIDC, preparing and/or
18 consolidating reports for the PMO, monitoring the implementation of policy decisions that the
19 PSIDC has adopted, and liaising with all the member departments and relevant agencies of the
20 government, as needed.

21 **SEC. 8. Salt as Basic Agricultural Product.** – Salt, whether unprocessed or processed,
22 is hereby classified as a basic agricultural product with all its necessary legal and regulatory
23 implications.

24 The DA shall also ensure that salt is a priority commodity to be produced locally in
25 areas or regions identified in this Act, as well as in the development plan for the salt industry.
26 The required resources shall be allocated by the DA for this purpose.

27 **SEC. 9. Jurisdiction over Salt Farms and Fishponds with Salt Farms.** – The
28 administrative jurisdiction and management of salt farms and fishponds with salt farms shall
29 be lodged with the DA-BFAR. All applications for salt farm leases, including those submitted
30 to the DENR, shall henceforth be processed by the DA-BFAR. However, all existing salt farm
31 lease agreements issued by DENR shall remain valid until their expiration. Thereafter,
32 application for renewal shall be lodged with the DA-BFAR.

33 **SEC. 10. Priority Areas for Salt Production.** – Provinces with Type 1 climate, which
34 include Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Zambales, Bataan, Occidental

1 Mindoro, Palawan, Antique, and Marinduque, are hereby declared priority areas for salt
2 production. As such, these provinces, shall be prioritized in the national development of salt
3 farms. The DENR shall identify and map sites within these priority areas suitable for salt
4 production, and the DA-BFAR shall then issue the corresponding tenurial instrument to
5 qualified applicants for the development of salt farms in these areas.

6 **SEC. 11. *Utilization of Public Lands Previously Intended for Fishpond Development***
7 ***and those with Existing Fishpond Lease Agreements (FLAs).*** – All areas previously released
8 to DA-BFAR for fishpond development that were not issued with fishpond lease agreements
9 (FLA), or those areas previously covered by FLAs but were subsequently cancelled or
10 terminated or previously reverted, are hereby automatically identified as areas suitable for salt
11 production that may be issued with tenurial instruments by DA-BFAR.

12 Existing FLAs shall also include salt farming or production as among the valid activities
13 that may be undertaken by the leaseholder under the condition that the required annual
14 commercial fish and/or salt production under the existing FLA rules and regulations is
15 complied with. FLA holders who intend to venture into salt farming shall be given the same
16 support, training, and financing given to salt farmers and producers, as provided under this Act.

17 **SEC. 12. *Identification of Additional Public Lands Suitable for Salt Production.*** –
18 Consistent with the Roadmap adopted by the PSIDC, the DENR shall identify additional areas
19 suitable for salt production. Once identified and mapped-out, the DA-BFAR shall issue the
20 appropriate tenurial instrument to qualified applicants.

21 **SEC. 13. *Municipal Waters.*** – As far as practicable, portions of municipal waters
22 adjacent to areas identified as suitable for salt farm development may be included in the tenurial
23 instrument, and as such, these municipal waters may also be utilized as salt farms: *Provided,*
24 That no critical habitat or spawning ground of fish may be affected by the salt farm
25 development in such municipal waters: and *Provided further,* That the LGU concerned has
26 been consulted.

27 **SEC. 14. *Qualifications of Tenurial Awardees.*** – Consistent with the provisions of
28 this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall come up with the qualifications of awardees of
29 salt-farm tenurial instruments taking into account relevant laws on the matter.

30 **SEC. 15. *Registration, Construction, and Lease of Salt Farms.*** – The DA-BFAR
31 shall facilitate the prompt registration of salt farms as well as assist in the design, construction,
32 and development of small-scale artisanal salt farms, either on its own or through partnership
33 with the private sector. The DOST, on the other hand, shall provide the necessary technology

1 in the construction of large-scale salt farms employing modern technologies to increase
2 production efficiency and environmentally-sound practices.

3 The DENR shall promptly act on the processing and issuance of permits and clearances,
4 such as Environmental Compliance Certificates, prior to the development of salt farms to
5 ensure that such projects will not cause a significant negative impact on the environment.

6 Individuals may lease up to five hundred (500) hectares of salt farms. Corporations,
7 associations, and cooperatives may lease up to one thousand (1,000) hectares. A lease applicant
8 may apply for a lease for more than one area and hold several lease agreements, but in no case
9 shall the total area covered by such multiple lease agreements exceed the limits prescribed
10 under this provision. Leases shall have a tenure of twenty-five (25) years, renewable for another
11 twenty-five (25) years. Upon expiration of the second lease, the existing lessee may apply for
12 a new lease over the same area. Lease rates for salt farm and fishponds shall be determined by
13 the DA-BFAR, and shall be aligned with the prevailing FLA rates.

14 **SEC. 16. *Periods for Approval of Salt Farm Lease Agreements and Issuance of***
15 ***Tenurial Instruments; Termination.*** – The BFAR Provincial Officer shall process new salt
16 farm lease applications within sixty (60) calendar days, and shall forward such application to
17 the BFAR Regional Director, who shall have thirty (30) calendar days to approve or return the
18 application. When approved, the tenurial instrument shall be issued to the applicant within the
19 thirty (30)-day period.

20 For the renewal of the lease agreement, the BFAR Provincial Officer shall process the
21 salt farm lease application within sixty (30) calendar days, and shall forward such application
22 to the BFAR Regional Director, who shall have fifteen (15) calendar days to approve or return
23 the application. Upon such approval, the BFAR Regional Director shall issue the tenurial
24 instrument to the applicant within the fifteen (15)-day period.

25 For the transfer of leases, the BFAR Provincial Officer shall process such application
26 for transfer within sixty (60) calendar days, and shall forward such application to the BFAR
27 Regional Director, who shall have thirty (30) calendar days to approve or return the application.
28 Upon such approval, the BFAR Regional Director shall issue the tenurial instrument to the
29 transferee within the thirty (30)-day period.

30 Unfavorable decisions by the BFAR Regional Director may be appealed by the
31 applicant to the BFAR National Director within thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of such
32 decision. Such appeal shall be resolved within sixty (60) calendar days from receipt by the
33 National Director. A copy of the decision shall be immediately sent to the appellant and to the
34 BFAR Regional Director concerned. In case of favorable decision on the appeal, the concerned

1 BFAR Regional Director shall issue the tenurial instrument within seven (7) calendar days
2 from receipt of said favorable decision.

3 The DA Secretary shall issue the appropriate rules and guidelines for the termination
4 of salt farm lease agreements, and consequently the revocation of the tenurial instruments
5 issued pursuant to this Act.

6 **SEC. 17. *Promotion of Artisanal Salt and Non-traditional Salt Farming***
7 ***Methodologies and Techniques.*** – The PSIDC shall promote and support artisanal salt
8 farming, as well as available non-traditional alternative methods and techniques of salt farming
9 that allow year-round production of salt even under erratic weather patterns. The introduction
10 of new technology shall be preceded by R&D activities spearheaded by the Department of
11 Agriculture - National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (DA-NFRDI) in close
12 coordination with the DOST.

13 **SEC. 18. *Funding and Technical Support for the Development of Salt Farms and***
14 ***Equipment.*** – The DA-BFAR shall provide funding and technical support in the development
15 and operation of salt farms. It shall also provide equipment and other necessary support to
16 salt farmers.

17 **SEC. 19. *Construction of Salt Farm Roads, to be Known as Daan Asinan.*** –
18 Consistent with the development plans on the revitalization of salt industry, the DA shall, in
19 coordination with the LGUs and salt farmers within the area, identify priority locations of roads
20 linking the salt farms to the market, to be known as *Daan Asinan*. The DA shall take into
21 account the investment for salt farm to be undertaken in the area, the number of salt farmers
22 and their families who shall benefit therefrom and the amount of salt produced or potentially
23 produced in the salt farms. Thereafter, the DA shall undertake the construction, improvement,
24 and maintenance of the *Daan Asinan*.

25 **SEC. 20. *Training Programs.*** – The DA shall, together with other government offices
26 such as but not limited to the DOST, DTI, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Technical
27 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), provide complementary training
28 programs to develop and upgrade the skills and competencies of salt farmers and producers,
29 ensure product traceability and compliance to food safety, technology acquisition including
30 product labelling and packaging, conduct continuous training on market positioning for
31 Philippine artisanal or specialty and industrial salts and such other skills necessary in the
32 maintenance and development of the local salt industry.

33 **SEC. 21. *Salt Farmers Cooperatives.*** – The CDA shall assist the formation of
34 cooperatives of local salt farmers and producers in order that they can economically engage in

1 the production and distribution of Philippine salt. The CDA shall also assist in the
2 organizational strengthening, capacity-building, and financial literacy training of salt farming
3 and producing cooperatives and their members so that they can leverage their resources, ensure
4 sustainable operations, and increase the number of successful cooperative-managed salt farms
5 in the country.

6 **SEC. 22. *Labeling of Salt Made in the Philippines.*** – All salt produced or
7 manufactured in the Philippines for export shall be labeled as “Made in the Philippines” in a
8 prominent and conspicuous manner on the product, its packaging, and accompanying
9 documentation, and shall comply with the requirements of RA 7394, otherwise known as the
10 “*Consumer Act of the Philippines*”.

11 For domestically produced salt intended for the local market, salt manufacturers,
12 producers or farmers are encouraged to provide a label “Made in the Philippines”.

13 The DTI shall assist domestic salt manufacturers, producers or farmers on this labeling
14 requirement.

15 **SEC. 23. *Registration with DA-BFAR.*** – Salt farmers, producers and importers of
16 salt shall register with the BFAR.

17 The BFAR shall continue to implement measures ensuring compliance of salt farmers
18 with food safety laws and guidelines intended for human and animal consumption: *Provided,*
19 That salt which are not intended for food consumption, shall not be subjected to food safety
20 laws and guidelines. For this purpose, the BFAR shall engage the expertise of the Philippine
21 Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development and the
22 Food and Nutrition Research Institute.

23 **SEC. 24. *Importation of Salt.*** – No person shall import salt without securing the
24 appropriate authorizations from the following agencies:

25 (a) DOH-FDA and DA-BFAR – for food grade salt; and

26 (b) DA-BFAR – for industrial salt.

27 The DOH-FDA and DA-BFAR shall align and streamline their processes.

28 **SEC. 25. *Tariffication.*** – Tariff collections shall be automatically deposited in a
29 special account with the Bureau of the Treasury which shall be used for the development of the
30 salt industry, through the Salt Industry Development and Competitiveness Enhancement Fund.

31 Salt imports include imported products under the following Harmonized System
32 headings or ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature Codes, the Descriptions:

33 2501 – Salt (including table salt and denatured salt) and pure sodium chloride, whether
34 or not in aqueous solution containing added anti-caking or free flowing agents; sea water.

- 1 (i) 2501.00.10 - Table salt
2 (ii) 2501.00.20 - Unprocessed rock salt
3 (iii) 2501.00.50 - Sea Water
4 (iv) 2501.00.51 - Salt, denatured, industrial
5 (v) 2501.00.91 - With sodium chloride content more than 60%
6 but less than 97%, calculated on a dry basis,
7 fortified with iodine
8 (vi) 2501.00.93 - Other, with sodium chloride content 97% or more
9 but less than 99.9%, calculated on a dry basis.
10 (vii) 2501.00.99 - Others

11 Tariff collection shall be automatically credited to a special account in the general fund
12 of the national treasury, which shall be in place within ninety (90) days upon effectivity of
13 this Act.

14 **SEC. 26. *Creation of the Salt Industry Development and Competitiveness***
15 ***Enhancement Fund.*** – There is hereby created a Salt Development and Competitiveness
16 Enhancement Fund, herein referred to as the “SIDCEF.”

17 *Provided,* That allocation and utilization of the SIDCEF shall be subject to the
18 following guidelines:

- 19 (a) The Secretary of the DA shall be accountable and responsible for the management
20 and utilization of the said fund in coordination with the other government
21 agencies concerned;
22 (b) The amount allocated shall be released directly to the implementing agencies as
23 provided for in this Act based on the objectives of the Salt Industry Development
24 Roadmap: *Provided,* That the unutilized portion of the SIDCEF shall not revert to
25 the general fund but shall continue to be used for the purpose for which it was set
26 aside. The fund releases shall not be subject to any ceiling by the DBM; and
27 (c) Any program undertaken in accordance with this Act shall only be deemed
28 complementary and supplementary to, and shall not be a replacement of any existing
29 programs for the fisherfolk already implemented by the DA-BFAR and other
30 agencies concerned.

31 **SEC. 27. *Review of the Salt Tariff Rates.*** – Consistent with the policies of this Act,
32 the Tariff Commission shall review the most favored nation or MFN in-quota and out-quota
33 tariff rates on salt imports originating from non-Association of Southeast Asian Nations
34 (ASEAN), World Trade Organization (WTO) member states. Within sixty (60) days following

1 the effectivity of this Act, the Tariff Commission shall recommend to the National Economic
2 and Development Authority Board the possible MFN in-quota and out-quota rate adjustments
3 for salt imports that will ensure the competitiveness of the local industry.

4 **SEC. 28. Powers of the President.** – The President, consistent with the national
5 interest of safeguarding Filipino salt producers, is hereby empowered to act with delegated
6 authority to revise or adjust existing rates of customs duties on salt imports under the WTO
7 Agreement on agriculture under ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement or ATIGA, including any
8 necessary change in classification: *Provided*, That the adjustment is time-bound and the power
9 herein delegated to the President shall only be exercised when Congress is not in session:
10 *Provided, further*, That any order issued by the President adjusting the applied tariff rates shall
11 take effect fifteen (15) days after publication.

12 The power herein delegated to the President may be withdrawn or terminated by
13 Congress through a joint resolution in accordance with the provisions under Section 1609 of
14 RA 10863 or the “Customs Modernization and Tariff Act or the CMTA.”

15 **SEC. 29. Trade and Export Assistance.** – The DTI and DA shall assist and support
16 local salt farmers in the trade and exportation of domestically-produced salt. It shall enhance
17 the capabilities and global competitiveness of potential and existing producers and exporters
18 of salt through export financing; business matching; provision of trade and market information;
19 organization of trade fairs and business missions; conduct of seminars, workshops, conferences
20 and symposium on export-related subjects, including export documentation and procedures;
21 product design and development; market consultancy; and product consultancy.

22 **SEC 30. Prioritization of Domestically-Produced Salt.** – The government shall
23 prioritize the use of domestically-produced salt in its programs, including the fertilization of
24 coconut farms by the Philippine Coconut Authority.

25 **SEC. 31. Incentives.** – The following incentives shall be provided to investors in salt
26 farm development and salt processing facilities:

- 27 (a) The Board of Investments shall classify salt farms as preferred areas of investment
28 under its Investment Priorities Plan subject to pertinent rules and regulations;
- 29 (b) The salt farmers and processors shall be given priority to access credit assistance
30 and guarantee schemes being granted by Government Finance Institutions; and
- 31 (c) Salt farm development and their equipment shall be covered by the Philippine Crop
32 Insurance Corporation.

33 **SEC. 32. Research.** – The DA-NFRDI shall conduct research, either on its own or in
34 collaboration with state universities and colleges and other stakeholder research institutions,

1 to enhance the technological development, provide applicable policy direction, and develop
2 innovative project-based interventions that may be adopted and implemented to achieve the
3 objectives of this Act.

4 The DOST Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology
5 Research and Development Council (PCIEERD), as lead together with other relevant DOST
6 offices and agencies shall develop and implement a comprehensive program for the acquisition,
7 design, and manufacture of salt iodization equipment, and transfer of the salt iodization
8 technology to salt producers/manufacturers.

9 **SEC. 33. *Human Resources Development.*** – All stakeholders in the salt industry shall
10 contribute to the development of a sustainable human resource for the industry. Towards this
11 end, the DOLE, in collaboration with the duly recognized salt associations and salt
12 cooperatives, the Commission on Higher Education, the TESDA, the Professional Regulation
13 Commission, the CDA, and the private sector, shall formulate and implement a Human
14 Resources Development Master Plan for the salt industry which shall include, among others,
15 the following:

- 16 (a) Capacity building, skills trainings, and institutional strengthening of the salt farm
17 workers, salt farmers, salt farming and producing cooperatives, and their
18 organizations to actively contribute in productivity and competitiveness;
- 19 (b) Scholarship program for the underprivileged but deserving college and post
20 graduate students who are taking up courses in relevant fields of discipline in state
21 universities and colleges which have programs in agriculture, agricultural
22 engineering and mechanics, and chemical engineering/salt technology; and for
23 vocational courses and skills development for farmers and farm technicians, and
24 skilled workers in salt farms; and
- 25 (c) Conduct of capability training or attendance to local or international trainings and
26 seminars by salt farmers and workers.

27 **SEC. 34. *Mandatory Salt Iodization; Exemptions and Incentives.*** – Imported food
28 grade salt shall continue to comply with the mandatory iodization as provided for under the
29 provisions of RA 8172. Domestically-produced salt including industrial salt shall be exempt
30 from said mandatory iodization. However, as provided under Section 6 (k) and (l) of this Act,
31 PSIDC may exercise its power to require the mandatory iodization of domestically-produced
32 salt and may exempt the mandatory iodization of imported food grade salt.

1 The DTI, DOH and DOST-PCIEERD shall develop, enhance, implement and sustain
2 programs that will encourage and incentivize local salt producers to iodize the salt that they
3 produce and manufacture for human and animal consumption.

4 **SEC. 35. *Role of LGUs.*** – The LGUs with areas suitable for salt production shall, as
5 far as practicable, establish their respective Salt Industry Development Task Force. The LGUs
6 shall regularly conduct a survey of existing salt farms and salt enterprises in their respective
7 localities. Each local Salt Industry Development Task Force shall conduct a survey of existing
8 salt processing enterprises that are operating in the locality. In cooperation with the DA-
9 NFRDI, DENR, DTI and the appropriate DOST-Regional Office, and in consultation with the
10 DA and BFAR, they shall identify and map appropriate areas for local salt production.

11 The LGUs shall also enact local ordinances to support the development of Philippine
12 sea salt, artisanal, gourmet, and specialty salt produced in their respective municipalities/ or
13 cities, implement appropriate measures to ensure the ease-of-doing business and ensure that
14 salt farmers or producers and local gourmet outlet owners are free from harassment on alleged
15 noncompliance with iodization requirements. Law enforcement units, including members of
16 the Philippine National Police, shall ensure that domestic salt famers and producers are not
17 unduly burdened.

18 **SEC. 36. *Agencies' Regular Programs.*** – The mandates, functions and activities of
19 the various departments and agencies identified in this Act shall be considered regular
20 programs and shall be included in their annual budgets.

21 **SEC. 37. *Reporting.*** – The various departments and agencies specified in this Act
22 shall provide regular updates to the PSIDC on the progress of their programs and activities
23 toward the realization of the objectives of this Act.

24 **SEC. 38. *Congressional Oversight.*** – The Congressional Oversight Committee on
25 Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization (COCAFAM) shall ensure the full implementation of
26 this Act.

27 The PSIDC shall submit an annual accomplishment report to Congress, through
28 COCAFAM, not later than June 30 of each year.

29 **SEC. 39. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of
30 this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the departments and
31 agencies concerned. Thereafter, amount shall be included in the annual General
32 Appropriations Act.

33 **SEC. 40. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The PSIDC created under Section
34 5 of this Act shall be convened within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act. Thereafter,

1 it shall issue the rules and regulations to efficiently carry out the provisions of this Act within
2 one hundred twenty (120) days from approval of this Act.

3 **SEC. 41. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared
4 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force
5 and effect.

6 **SEC. 42. *Repealing Clause.*** – The pertinent provisions of RA 8172, RA 8550,
7 otherwise known as the “*Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998,*” as amended, are hereby modified
8 or amended accordingly. Further, all laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other
9 issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,
10 amended or modified accordingly.

11 **SEC. 43. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
12 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,