

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10089, May 13, 2010 ]**

**AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE RUBBER RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO DEVELOP THE PHILIPPINE RUBBER INDUSTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Rubber Research Institute Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. *Declaration, of Policy.* — It is a declared policy of the State to develop self-reliant industries effectively controlled by Filipinos, encourage investments and provide incentives to private enterprise, promote employment and livelihood opportunities for the poor, ensure well-balanced ecology in the use of natural resources for industrial purposes, and prioritize education and training particularly in science and technology for sustainable development.

In support of these State policies, the establishment of the Philippine Rubber Research Institute aims to comprehensively realize the goals of human empowerment and economic development in the countryside through programs and projects that will increase rubber production in the country, and improve quality of life especially in poor rural communities that depend primarily on this industry.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* — As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- a. "Philippine Rubber Research Institute" refers to the main institute for rubber at the Mindanao State University (MSU) to be based in the Municipality of Naga, Province of Zamboanga Sibugay and its satellite units as may be subsequently established whose mandate is to initiate and administer research and development programs to improve quality and increase productivity of rubber especially for the benefit of smallholder rubber producers and processors.
- b. "Rubber tree" refers to the robust, perennial crop and the source of natural rubber, also scientifically known as *Hevea brasilienses*.
- c. "Latex" refers to a milky usually white fluid that is produced by cells of rubber trees, and is the raw material used in the manufacture of industrial, automotive and other latex products.
- d. "Smallholder rubber producers" refer to individuals, cooperatives or corporations owning and/or cultivating five (5) hectares or less of rubber plantation.
- e. "Smallholder rubber processors" refer to individuals, cooperatives or corporations which maintain and/or operate small-scale processing plants of

finished or semifinished rubber products, capable of processing not more than fifty (50) metric tons of rubber annually.

- f. "Rubber cooperatives" refer to duly organized and registered enterprises collectively owned and operated by groups of rubber products and/or processors who partake of and share among themselves the benefits and profits of their economic ventures.
- g. "Big holder rubber producers" refer to individuals, cooperatives or corporations owning and/or cultivating more than five (5) hectares of rubber plantation.
- h. "Big holder rubber processors" refer to individuals, cooperatives or corporations which maintain and/or operate large-scale processing plants of finished or semifinished rubber products, capable of processing more than fifty (50) metric tons of rubber annually.

SEC. 4. *Creation of the Philippine Rubber Research Institute.* — There is hereby created the Philippine Rubber Research Institute, hereinafter referred to as the PRRI, which shall be under the control and supervision of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions of the PRRI.* — The PRRI shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Propagate and promote the planting, maintenance, as well as wise utilization of rubber trees as source of latex and finished rubber products;
- b. Enable rubber producers and processors, especially smallholders, to have access to quality rubber tree seedlings, modern production techniques and other support services from production to marketing of rubber produce;
- c. Undertake training and capacity-building programs for rubber producers, processors and cooperatives in order to increase production of quality rubber and raise level of income especially of poor smallholders;
- d. Aid in the establishment of village-based rubber enterprises to generate livelihood opportunities and improve general well-being of the large percentage of the workforce in agricultural communities;
- e. Promote cooperative development among smallholders and provide them access to resources, technological know-how, as well as decision-making processes for the enhancement of their rubber enterprises and the protection of their welfare;
- f. Initiate research and development projects on rubber in order to address technology and policy gaps in promoting a robust rubber industry, ensuring standard in production and meeting demands for quality rubber in both domestic and international trade; and
- g. Enter into memoranda of agreement and receive grants from local and foreign funding agencies through the DA upon the recommendation of the PRRI Advisory Board; or through the respective academic boards of satellite units housed in concerned state universities and colleges upon the recommendation of the PRRI Advisory Board.

SEC. 6. *Executive Director of the PRRI.* — The PRRI shall be headed by an Executive Director who shall be responsible for the planning, implementation and supervision of the programs and activities of the PRRI. He shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines for a term of three (3) years, upon recommendation of the DA. All