

GMO Ordinance and Resolution, Province of Bohol

Republic of the Philippines

PROVINCE OF BOHOL

City of Tagbilaran

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

EXCERPT FROM THE RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF BOHOL HELD AT THE SENATOR BENIGNO S.
AQUINO, JR. SESSION HALL, NEW CAPITOL COMPLEX, TAGBILARAN CITY, ON JUNE 16,
2003.

PRESENT:

Hon. Julius Caesar F. Herrera Provincial Governor

Presiding officer

Hon. Dionisio D. Balite Senior Board Member

Hon. Eufrasio M. Mascariñas Member

Hon. Jose E. Veloso Member

Hon. Godofredo O. Tirol Member

Hon. Amalia R. Tirol Member

Hon. Felix R. Uy Member

Hon. Tomas D. Abapo, Jr. Member

Hon. Ester Corazon J. Galbreath Member

Hon. Estanislao S. Camacho Member

Hon. Jesus Yves B. Yu PCL

Hon. Urbano H. Lagunay PCL

Hon. Frances Bobbit R. Cajés Member, (SK)

ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS:

Hon. Concepcion O. Lim Member

Hon. Renato O. Lim Member, (ABC)

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-235

DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF BOHOL TO BE GMO-FREE OF FREE FROM
GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS.

(Authored by Vice Governor Julius Caesar F. Herrera
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture)
(Sponsored by Motion En Masse)

“ WHEREAS, genetic engineering is the process of transferring genes from one organism to another, sometimes from one completely different species to another, producing new transgenic product; and characteristics from bacteria, viruses, and fish have been transferred to certain crops such as soybeans, corn, cotton, and tomatoes;

“WHEREAS, the plant, animal or microorganism produced through genetic engineering is called genetically-engineered or modified organisms, popularly known as GMOs;

“WHEREAS, the issue behind GMOs has again hugged the headlines of national papers and scientists continue to debate on its merits and demerits;

“WHEREAS, this August Body in 1999 passed the following relevant resolutions:

Resolution No. 99-621 Strongly supporting Senate Resolution No. 282, introduced by Sen. Gregorio Honasan, directing the Senate Committees on Environment and Natural Resources, Agriculture and Food and Science and Technology, to conduct an inquiry, in-air-of legislation, into the reported field testing of genetically modified organisms including the possibility that they may have already entered the country, to determine adequacy of any safety measures that may have been adopted to prevent unnecessary accidents, mishaps and health impacts to the consuming public and the environment and for other purposes;

Resolution No. 99-622 Strongly supporting House Bill No. 7793 introduced by the Congressman Francis Joseph Escudero entitled, “An Act Requiring mandatory Labelling of genetically engineered food products and providing penalties for violations thereof”; and

Resolution No. 99-623 Requesting the Bohol Initiators for Sustainable Agriculture (BISAD), LGUs, and other agencies concerned to conduct a province wide information and education campaign on GMOs in the province of Bohol;

“WHEREAS, their Excellencies Bishops Leopoldo S. Tumalak, DD and Christian Vincent Noel, DD jointly issues a relevant Pastoral Letter entitle, “The World and Our Future, Our Responsibility” in

which, referring specifically to GMOs, they said, “What then are the possible effects of these kind of foods on our health? Moreover, what are the effects of genetic engineering on our environment created by God? Is this the will of the Lord? Certainly not!”

“WHEREAS, while scientists, of opposing stances for or against, are still debating on the issue, the best course of action is always one guided by the virtue of prudence wherein on the basis “precautionary principle” we cannot put at risk the health of our people nor gamble on the soundness of our environment since it is the main asset of our province as the country’s prime eco-cultural tourism destination;

“WHEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Bohol in session duly assembled –

To declare the province of Bohol as GMO-free or free from genetically engineered of modified organisms.

“RESOLVED FURTHER, that for purposes of safeguarding the health of Boholanos and the environment of Bohol, an accompanying regulatory ordinance shall be passed by this Body;

“Let copies hereof be furnished to all sectors concerned, particularly the general public for their guidance and appreciation.

“APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.”

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I hereby certify to the correctness of the above-quoted Resolution.

(signed)

BONIFACIO M. QUIROG, JR.

SP Secretary

ATTESTED:

(signed)

Atty. JULIUS CAESAR F. HERRERA

Vice Governor

(Presiding Officer)

Republic of the Philippines

PROVINCE OF BOHOL

City of Tagbilaran

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 2003-010