



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Nueva Ecija
MUNICIPALITY OF BONGABON
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR



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August 2, 2023

HON. IMEE R. MARCOS

Senator, Republic of the Philippines
Rooms 519 & 15 (Extension) GSIS Bldg.,
Financial Center, Diokno Blvd., Pasay City

Dear Madam Senator Marcos:

The Municipality of Bongabon Nueva Ecija, is known to be the Onion Capital of the Philippines. The town has about 3,000 hectares concentrated to onion cultivation, which equates to more than half of the total land areas concentrated to Onion crop in Nueva Ecija, and produces around 60% of the onion production in the province, equates to about 15% of the total onion production of the country (PSA, 2020).

At present, there are gaps and constraints in the onion industry that are needed to be addressed. Among these are the following;

- a) High cost of production (up to P350,000.00 per hectare)
- b) unstable prices (farm gate and market)
- c) losses brought about by pests and diseases and other disasters.
- d) lack of comprehensive plan or program to develop the industry, where the problem mainly lies.

The onion industry has been neglected over the years; hence, it is about time that the much-needed interventions and key focal points of action be identified by stakeholders and industry players to ensure its growth and development in the succeeding years.

In line with this, we would like to request for your sponsorship in the establishment of the Philippine Onion Institute for Research and Development in the Municipality of Bongabon, Province of Nueva Ecija. (My letter of intent has been sent to your office and acknowledged on May 15, 2023 via email). We believe that through your initiative, we shall come up with important steps through research and studies in addressing present problems of the onion industry, to wit;

- a) Onion seed production which is adaptable to our fields/farms. Seeds are imported as we don't have capability to produce seeds.
- b) Control of pests that devastate Onion farms. Pest, particularly army worms has not been properly controlled as if the pests are already immune to pesticides.
- c) The use of right fertilizers. Chinese farmers use 250kilos of fertilizers per ha. It is a combination of 60% animal manure and 40% real fertilizer. Our farmers do not know as there is no research / studies what procedure will they do to animal manure, so it can blend to the fertilizers to be more effective.
- d) The scientific technology that suits to our land, climate and environment. (Of course, there are lot to be researched and studied, but we have to leave that to the hands of the experts).



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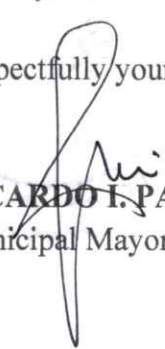
For the information of the Good Madam Senator, I was invited by the Chinese government on 18-23 July 2023, to visit and observe their technology in terms of Onion production. Chinese Onion production is actually four times (4x) our production, using the same area of land. If we can only meet $\frac{1}{2}$ of their production using the same area of land, our onion sustainability can be realized and perhaps we can even be classified as onion exporting country. All of these dreams can be a reality using a magical Onion Research Institute.

Please understand that there were initial moves being initiated in the House of Representatives regarding the matter. **The House Bill No.3110 being sponsored by Representative Rosanna V. Vergara of the 3rd District, Nueva Ecija and House Bill No. 1379, moved by Representative Mikaela Angela B. Suansing of the 1st District of Nueva Ecija.** Both bills have the same objective; that is to establish an Onion Research Center that would cater researches and studies regarding Onion farming and cultivation in the country. It is not my intent to undermine the two-House Bills, but reality dictates that it will take some time before it can be realized. My only prayer is for the Good Lady Senator to help us fast track the completion of the Onion Research Institute through the fastest way possible, be it through Congress, or through Executive Action. We hate to see the onion production slowly vanish into thin air. Madam Senator, please note that Onion farming is the main livelihood of the people of Bongabon, Nueva Ecija.

With all these above-stated collaterals regarding onion farming, it is my fervent belief that it is necessary to establish Onion Research in our country hopefully in our Municipality, through your kind intercession.

Thank you and more power.

Respectfully yours,


RICARDO I. PADILLA
Municipal Mayor