

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2362

Introduced by Representative Faysah RPM Dumarpa

EXPLANATORY NOTE

One of the reasons why most people would opt to join in armed groups and bandits such as the Abu Sayaf is poverty. When the stomach is empty, the hungry man would resort to anything just to survive. Much as they want to evade from engaging illegal activities, they do not have a choice. When poverty strikes, the fight becomes a survival of the fittest. That is why forging a peace accord with the rebels and insurgents of Muslim Mindanao has been very elusive, owing to the fact that both negotiating panels can not come into agreement. Mass surrender of rebels seems to be a very temporary solution. After the surrender though, most rebel-returnees go back to the mountains to continue their struggle, either due to lack of support or lack of job opportunities. The support they may have received after their surrender may not suffice at all. A famous proverb goes, : “ Give a man a fish, he will last for a day but teach him how to fish and he will survive for a lifetime.” And this is exactly what happens to them.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has included in her Ten Point Agenda of Governance a firm commitment to resolve the conflict between the government and the rebels and insurgents. Speaker De Venecia reiterated this commitment of the government in concluding the long-overdue peace talks with them. He further said that he favored giving amnesty anew to all armed dissidents and later adopting “affirmative action” programs initially for Muslim and indigenous communities, and eventually for all the poorest provinces and regions.

This representation believes that one “affirmative action” is the establishment of livelihood training centers in the province of Lanao del Sur that will equip the people with the proper knowledge and skills in agri-business, industrial manufacturing such as furniture making, wood carving and others. This is envisioned to improve and enhance their meager source of livelihood, thus, turning the commitment of the government into reality. Moreover, the rich natural resources and potentials of the province will be tapped. If this proposal is materialized, our desire to achieve peace would surely take its course. People would choose to carry hoes and plows instead of guns and ammunitions. It will also solve the unemployment problem of the country as jobs and other opportunities will be created.

Considering the aforementioned, your support for the passage of this Bill is earnestly requested.


FAYSAH RPM DUMARPA

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AN ACT
CREATING LIVELIHOOD TRAINING CENTERS IN THE
MUNICIPALITIES OF THE FIRST DISTRICT OF LANA DEL
SUR

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

Section 1. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to provide relevant training to its citizens towards vocational efficiency and other skills to raise their living standards and to alleviate poverty.

Section 2. There shall be established in the different municipalities of the First District of Lanao del Sur a Livelihood Training Center complete with facilities and equipment, to be organized, managed and operated by the Department of Trade and Industry, in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the local government units concerned and other government agencies.

Section 3. The Center shall have the following functions :

- a. To provide skills training services to develop the individual skills of residents of the First District of Lanao del Sur for employment and for small scale entrepreneurship;
- b. To provide the necessary knowledge, technology and training that will cover all aspects of livelihood production such as furniture making, handicrafts, ceramics, candle-making, décor making, anthurium and flower breeding, wood carving and agri-business production;
- c. To provide livelihood skills development to open opportunities for residents to engage in productive undertakings and income-generating projects either through open, sheltered or self-employment, including the development of practical skills for backyard-gardening, homebased aqua culture and livestock raising, basic business management, technical-vocational occupation, among others;

- d. To provide coordination in extending government's priority support to livelihood and employment;
- e. To conduct special research relative to livelihood promotion and employment generation, in cooperation with other agencies, whether local, national or international, private or public, and to disseminate the results thereof; and
- f. To perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the city and municipality concerned.

Section 4. The Center shall be the hub of production of goods for domestic consumption and eventually for export. It shall serve as model for livelihood projects.

Section 5. The Department of Trade and Industry shall, in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 6. The city or municipality concerned shall set aside twenty-five percent (25%) out of the twenty percent (20%) development Fund and make this amount available to the Center in order to provide seed capital to livelihood projects it promotes : provided, that the sum necessary to meet the inadequacies in the aforementioned funding shall be charged to the appropriation of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) under the General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, the sum necessary for the continuous operation of the Centers shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 7. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,