

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1149

Introduced by HONORABLE LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to prescribe as a priority program, the scientific propagation, culture and development of indigenous raw materials to be utilized in homecrafts and other industries.

As an appropriate and timely undertaking on the part of the government, considering our present economic predicament, the growing need for indigenous raw materials such as bamboo, rattan, buri, anahaw, tambo and the like as functional and ornamental items for homecrafts and other industries has been felt and recognized. Despite the enormous demand for these items as raw materials for semi-finished or finished products both in the local and international market, it has been noted that its current supply does not meet the market demand or requirements. Presently, no planned or organized efforts from either the public or private sector has yet been undertaken to augment the dwindling supply of these indigenous materials.

Our country, blessed with favorable climatic conditions and fertile soil conducive to their growth, has vast areas in our national forest which had been denuded through misuse or lack of foresight. The establishment of pilot demonstration farms for the scientific culture, propagation and development of indigenous materials in those areas will not only be positive steps to preserve our ecosystem but will likewise generate potentially realizable increments to our economy.

Considering the relatively small investment cost compared to the projected economic benefits which can be obtained from the implementation of this program, early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE

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**AN ACT TO PRESCRIBE, AS A PRIORITY PROGRAM, THE
SCIENTIFIC PROPAGATION, CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF
INDIGENOUS RAW MATERIALS FOR HOMECRAFTS AND
OTHER INDUSTRIES AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** There is hereby authorized and prescribed, as a priority
2 program, the scientific propagation, culture and development of
3 indigenous raw materials such as bamboo, rattan, buri, anahaw, tambo
4 and the like for homecrafts and other industries.

5 **SEC. 2.** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources
6 (DENR) shall initially select and allocate not less than ten (10) hectares
7 each in appropriate sites for every indigenous planting materials referred
8 to in Section 1 hereof as pilot demonstration farms in selected
9 municipalities for the implementation of the program envisioned under
10 this Act during its first year of operation. Thereafter, depending on the
11 viability of the said pilot farms, the DENR shall annually expand and
12 diversify the implementation of the same.

1 **SEC. 3.** The DENR is hereby authorized to utilize, on an annual
2 basis, an amount not less than fifteen (15%) per centum of whatever
3 funds for pilot plantation of selected forest species or reforestation or
4 other funds that are available for the implementation of the program
5 under the General Appropriation Act component of the DENR.

6 **SEC. 4.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,