

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2511

Introduced by **HONORABLE ARNULFO T. GO**

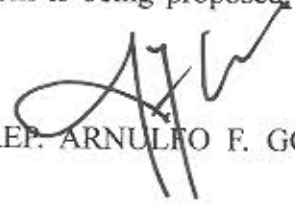
The bill seeks to appropriate the amount of One Billion Pesos for the operational requirements of fishermen multi-purpose cooperatives throughout the country.

One of the policies of the Cooperative Code is to foster the creation and growth of cooperatives as a practical vehicle for promoting self-reliance and harnessing people power towards the attainment of economic development and social justice. The government shall ensure financial assistance to enable said cooperatives to develop into viable and responsive economic enterprises and thereby bring about a strong cooperative movement that is free from any conditions that might infringe upon the autonomy or organizational integrity of cooperatives.

Moreover, since, its inception, studies show that cooperatives have benefited mostly the middle or lower middle class. Among the groups who are not enjoying the benefits of cooperative are the fishermen. Some of them have formed cooperatives but the very limited funds thereof generated from the members themselves who could contribute only a minimal amount cannot financially help their members.

The fishermen contribute immensely to the country's economy. Despite their contribution to the national economy, Filipino fishermen remained in poverty and deprivation, marginalized due to lack of government support and protection. To show its sincerity in improving the living condition of the fishermen, the government should assist them in organizing and developing genuine cooperativism.

Furthermore, Section 2 of Article XII of the constitution provides that "Congress may, by law, allow small scale utilization of natural resources by Filipino citizens, as well as cooperative fish farming, with priority to subsistence fishermen and fish workers in rivers, lakes, bays, and lagoons. It is in accordance with the foregoing provisions that this bill is being proposed. Approval of this bill is therefore urgently sought.


REP. ARNULFO F. GO

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AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF ONE BILLION PESOS (PHP 1,000,000,000.00) FOR THE OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF FISHERMEN MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

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

SECTION 1: The amount of one billion (PHP 1, 000, 000, 000.00) is hereby appropriated out of any fund in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated for the operational requirements of fishermen multi- purpose cooperatives throughout the country and shall be released to the Department of Agriculture which shall allocate the same in accordance with the needs of the fishermen cooperative concerned.

SECTION 2: The Department of Agriculture, the Cooperatives Development Authority and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas shall draw up a joint program for the organization and financing of the fishermen multi-purpose cooperatives. The joint programs shall be geared towards the beneficiaries gradual assumption of full ownership and management control of the fishermen cooperatives within ten (10) years from the date of registration of said cooperatives.

SECTION 3: This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.