

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 653



Introduced by **Rep. BABY ALINE VARGAS-ALFONSO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Abulug lies between the municipalities of Ballesteros and Pamplona on the Northwestern part of Cagayan along the China Sea. It is basically a coastal town where most of its inhabitants are fishermen who are dependent on the abundance of fish and marine products. It has been a flourishing fishing village long before Don Juan Salcedo sailed to the mouth of Abulug River in 1572.

Article II, Section 7 of the 1986 Philippine Constitution specifically provides this protection:

"Section 7. The State shall protect the rights of subsistence fishermen, especially of local communities, to the preferential use of the communal marine and fishing resources, both inland and offshore. It shall provide support to such fishermen through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial, production, and marketing assistance, and other services. The State shall also protect, develop, and conserve such resources. The protection shall extend to offshore fishing grounds of subsistence fishermen against foreign intrusion. Fish workers shall receive a just share from their labor in the utilization of marine and fishing resources."

This bill, therefore, is in support of the afore-stated Constitutional provision which seeks to establish a fishport in the Municipality of Abulug in the Second District of Cagayan. The establishment of said municipal fish port will improve the income of fisherfolks and fish processors in the locality thereby ensuring the sufficiency of fish supply in the whole province. This means that there will be a steady supply of fish produce in the area and that prices of fish products will now be regulated. Hence, it is expected that the fish port will bring in better revenue for the local government units and will redound to the benefit of the consumers.

Likewise, the fishport will encourage and attract big traders to come to Abulug. Consequently, local tourism will surely flourish as fishermen and buyers alike will converge at the fishport.

This bill has been filed during the 15th Congress, favorably acted by the concerned Committee, approved by the House on Third and Final Reading, and consequently

transmitted to the Senate for its action. It was also favorably acted by the concerned Senate Committee but its consequent approval by the Senate was stalled by the sine die adjournment of the 15th Congress.

Hence, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

Baby Aline V. Alfonso
BABY ALINE VARGAS-ALFONSO

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FISHPORT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ABULUG IN THE
SECOND DISTRICT OF CAGAYAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. *Establishment of the Fish Port.* - There shall be established, under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture, through the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) a Fish Port in the Municipality of Abulug, Province of Cagayan.

SEC. 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Department of Agriculture, through the PFDA, shall formulate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 3. *Appropriations.* - The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's program for the establishment of the said fisheries research center, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The local government unit concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenues in an amount deemed for its operationalization.

SEC.4. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,