

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4812



Introduced by: Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Considered as the "golden fiber", "bunot" or coco coir gives hope and holds so much promise for countless coconut farmers in the country. Its many uses such as planting medium additive, insulator, carpet, car seat stuffing, mat upholstery cushion, rope and cordage, fishing net, flooring material, filtration pads, mattress fiber, pot liner, brush, and coco nets for erosion control among many others have fostered its high export demand.

In 2011, there was a 39.15% increase in the quantity of coco coir exports from 4.43 million kilograms worth US\$974,586 in 2010 to 6.16 million kilograms worth US\$2.01 million. As a result, the government aims to make heavy investments to further develop the coconut industry and provide countryside development and employment.

In view thereof, this measure seeks to provide the construction of a coco coir tufting plant facility in the Municipality of Gumaca, Quezon Province for the processing of coco coir fibers into exportable finished products.

Gumaca, a center of regional trade and commerce, is a first class municipality in the Province of Quezon, also known as one of the biggest coconut-producing province in the country. It is located at the mouth of what is now known as Pipisik River and nestling at the foot of the Sierra Madre range. It is strategically situated as the gateway to the Bicol Region, the Bondoc Peninsula, and the Pacific Ocean through the islands of Alabat, Perez and Quezon.

This initiative will help raise coconut farm incomes and strengthen small coconut farmer groups or small medium entrepreneurs in Gumaca and its neighboring towns through the provision of essential support facilities towards sustainable livelihood program.

The construction of a coco coir tufting plant facility would help in accelerating rural development by providing coconut farmers an opportunity for income-generating and value-adding processes and would benefit the coconut industry in meeting and sustain the increasing domestic and export demands for twines, geotextiles nets and other coir products.

In view thereof, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANGELINA "HELEN" D.L. TAN, M.D.
4th District, Quezon

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF COCO COIR TUFTING PLANT
FACILITY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUMACA, QUEZON PROVINCE AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established, under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture, a Coco Coir Tufting Plant Facility in Gumaca, Quezon for the processing of coco coir fibers into exportable finished products such as mats, ropes, twines and other coir products.

SEC. 2. The Philippine Coconut Authority, in consultation with the Department of Trade and Industry, shall draw up a business plan that will include a detailed production study, market study, financial study and management study to make sure the viability and feasibility of the project.

SEC. 3. The local government unit shall mobilize small coconut farmers' organizations and cooperatives and shall put up counterpart funds for the operationalization and enhancement of the facility.

SEC. 4. The Department of Agriculture and appropriate agencies shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's program the construction and operationalization of the coco coir tufting plant facility in the Municipality of Gumaca, Quezon Province, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,