

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL 5788



Introduced by Rep. Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo and Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo

EXPLATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a freshwater aquaculture center in Agus River in the Municipality of Baloi, Lanao del Norte for the breeding and production of tilapia, carp, pangasius, catfish and other freshwater fish and crustacean species. The Center shall be under the administration of the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

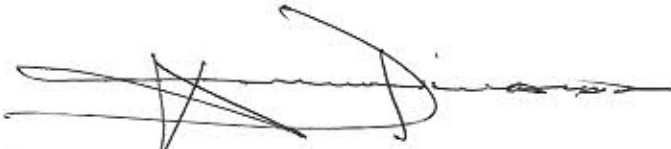
The demand for fish protein is constantly on the rise as the human population grows year in and year out. This natural phenomenon is causing heavy stress on the natural supply of wild fisheries due to overfishing and the situation necessitates sustainable means to ensure steady supply of fish products in the long term. Man's response is aquaculture.

Aquaculture is a growing industry worldwide. While filling the gaps of human needs for fish protein, it provides livelihood to millions of people. In the Philippines, it is an emerging sector in the agriculture industry that provides income to hundreds of thousands of Filipinos and their number is consistently on the rise. Amidst the reality of dwindling fish stocks due to overfishing, this is the right way to go to ensure food security. More so, the potential of the sector in contributing significantly to the economic development of the country should be recognized and maximized.

The government should take the lead in enhancing the contribution of aquaculture to the national economy, especially in the context of ensuring food security. Hence, the State should allocate considerable resources towards this end especially in the field of research, breeding and propagation. Doing so will produce multiple benefits not only in ensuring food security but also in the fight against poverty.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.


IMELDA QUIBRANZA-DIMAPORO
First district, Lanao del Norte


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Second District, Lanao del Norte

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HOUSE BILL NO. 5788

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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A FRESHWATER AQUACULTURE CENTER UNDER THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES FOR THE RESEARCH, BREEDING AND PRODUCTION OF TILAPIA, CARP, PANGASIUS, CATFISH AND OTHER FRESHWATER SPECIES IN AGUS RIVER, MUNICIPALITY OF BALOI, LANA DEL NORTE TO BE KNOWN AS THE LANA DEL NORTE FRESHWATER AQUACULTURE CENTER 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 Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture, a freshwater aquaculture center for the research, breeding and production of tilapia, carp, pangasius, catfish and other freshwater fish and crustacean species in Agus River, Municipality of Baloi, Lanao del Norte, to be known as the Lanao del Norte Freshwater Aquaculture Center.

SECTION 2. The Lanao del Norte Freshwater Aquaculture Center shall conduct continuing research and experimentation on the breeding and production of tilapia, carp, pangasius, catfish and other freshwater fish and crustacean species, especially as they apply to local conditions, to discover new methods and technology adaptive of prevailing weather conditions that will rejuvenate the freshwater aquaculture industry.

SECTION 3. The Center shall disperse high-variety fry and fingerlings in public bodies of water in such intervals as may be recommended by the Local Advisory Council established in the succeeding section. It may also sell such fry and fingerlings to individual or organized fish farmers at prevailing market prices.

SECTION 4. There shall be established a Local Advisory Council that shall provide policy direction for the Center and facilitate the exchange of information between the Center and the stakeholders. The Council shall be composed of the BFAR Director for Region X as Chairman, the Provincial Governor of Lanao del Norte as Co-Chairman, the President of the Municipal Mayor's League of Lanao del Norte, the Mayor of the Municipality of Baloi and three representatives from the local fisheries sector to be appointed by the Governor, as members.

SECTION 5. The Department of Agriculture shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SECTION 6. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's program the establishment and operationalization of the Lanao del Norte Freshwater Aquaculture Center in Agus River, Municipality of Baloi, Lanao del Norte, initially from its savings and the yearly funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,