

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

17th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4883



Introduced by: HON. JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide for the development and protection of the Philippine Handloom Weaving Industry as it is now on the decline and its very existence is threatened by the influx of cheap imported textile products.

Handloom weaving is an art practiced in the Philippines over generations. It is one of the leading handicraft industries in the Philippines and considered as a traditional craft in a number of regions in the country. Up until the last century, it was a household activity to meet family needs and was not organized as a commercial industry. Over time, villages in the various regions developed their own traditions surrounding their craft. The different colors, techniques and symbolism represented their heritage and way of life.

The legacy of hand woven textiles emanated from the Philippine ancestral tribes as part of their culture and family history handed down from generation to generation. While it is an ancient tradition, its intent as a livelihood activity has waned among the new generation because its specialized and time-consuming techniques that cannot meet the demands of commercial production.

It has great potential as an industry because it is labor intensive and utilizes indigenous materials such as abaca, raffia, pineapple, buri and other plants used as source for fabrics. Different regions and ethnic groups use their own kind of loom that is utilized in their woven products. They take pride in using materials that are famously associated with their land.

In the early 20th century, handloom weaving became a thriving industry, but was paralyzed by the Second World War. After the war, the decline of the cotton industry and the flood of cheap imported textiles severely damaged the handloom weaving industry. Today, there is a renewed effort to recognize and value this ancient craft not only for its commercial value but more importantly for its cultural value as it is part of the very rich Filipino cultural heritage that must be preserved and protected.

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

JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO



**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H.B. No. 4883

Introduced by Hon. Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE
PHILIPPINE HANDLOOM WEAVING INDUSTRY**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Handloom
Weaving Industry Development Act.”

Sec 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to instill patriotism
and nationalism among the people, especially in education system, who shall
at all times be loyal to the Republic and the Filipino people, promote the
preferential use of locally manufactured goods that utilize local resources and
technologies, celebrate the culture and heritage of the country through the
adoption of measures to elevate its value and prestige and thus generate wider
employment and inclusive greater growth for the country by preserving and
nurturing handloom weaving activities thus in turn and nurtures the textile
culture and heritage of our people.

Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.*

- (A) *Handloom* is a device used in weaving fabrics by
holding the warp threads under tension to facilitate the interweaving of
the weft threads.
- (B) *Handloom-woven fabric* is woven using a handloom.
- (C) *Handloom weaving industry* is composed of the the interrelated and
interconnected component supply chain realizing the production of
textiles through the handloom.
- (D) *Neo-ethnic Philippines textiles* are made of or contain natural or
indigenous materials, sourced and/or produced in the Philippines

using updated, relevant, and green scientific and technological approaches and innovations; while integrating and/or retaining traditional patterns, designs, icons, motifs and/or approaches, and thus, contribute to livelihood generation and in sustaining the local handloom weaving and textile heritage.

Sec.4.Establishment of the National Handloom Weaving Development Council.The National Handloom Weaving Development Council shall be composed of the following:

- (A) Head of the Philippine Textile Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology as Chair of the Council.
- (B) Head of the Garments and Textile Industry Development Office of the Department of Trade and Industry as Co-Chair.
- (C) Head of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts as Member
- (D) Head of the National Commission on Indigenous People as Member.
- (E) Head of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Office of the President as Member.
- (F) Head of the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority of the Department of Agriculture as Member.
- (G) Representative of the handloom weaving industry association as Member.

Sec. 5.The National Handloom Weaving Industry Development Policy.The Council shall formulate one (1) year after it is created, the National Handloom Weaving Industry Development Policy. This shall include but not limited to:

- (A) Formulation of the Handloom Weaving Industry Roadmap.
- (B) Innovations on handloom design and engineering.
- (C) Technical support mechanism for sustainable handloom weaving activities.
- (D) Development and promotion of neo-ethnic Philippine textiles.
- (E) Development of Philippine Standards for Handloom Woven Textiles
- (F) Intellectual property protection framework for textiles.
- (G) Development of Textile-related Technical and Skills and Vocational Education and Training.

The Council shall implement and monitor the measures to enable the Policy.

Sec. 6.Appropriations.- The amount of fifty million pesos (P50,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury for the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be appropriated as a distinct and separate item.

1 **Sec.7.Implementing Rules and Regulations.-** Within sixty (60) days from the
2 effectivity of this Act, the Director of the Philippine Textile Research Institute of
3 the Department of Science and Technology, in coordination with the Garment
4 and Textile Industry Development Office of the Department of Trade and
5 Industry, the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, the Technical
6 Education and Skills Development Authority, the Philippine Fiber Industry
7 Development Authority of the Department of Agriculture, shall promulgate the
8 implementing rules and regulations of this Act.
9

10 **Sec. 8.Separability Clause.-** If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or
11 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise
12 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.
13

14 **Sec. 9.Repealing Clause.-** Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
15 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to
16 or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or
17 amended accordingly.
18

19 **Sec. 10.Effectivity Clause.-** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
20 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
21

22 Approved,

