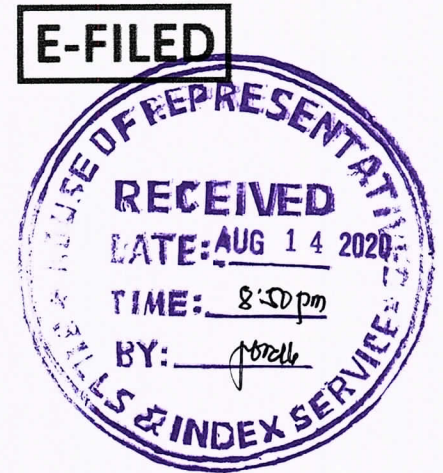


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7397



Introduced by **Hon. ALAN 1 B. ECLEO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks the establishment of a Provincial Office of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) in the Province of Dinagat Islands.

Apropos Presidential Decree no. 1468 s. 1978, it is the policy of the State to promote the rapid integrated development and growth of the coconut and other palm oil industry in all its aspects and to ensure that the coconut farmers become direct participants in, and beneficiaries of, such development and growth. In living up to this mandate, the PCA developed and implemented various strategies such as regionalizing responsive and sustainable programs. However, laudable as it is, the lack of an independent PCA provincial office stays to be a pressing matter to some provinces such as the Province of Dinagat Islands where coconut industry is presently progressing, dating back from 2012¹ with merely 2,751 scattered coconut trees to the year 2019³ now hailing with 1,084,302 coconut trees planted in a 15,490.03 hectare area in the province.

In the 1970s, the economic well-being of a major part of the population depends to a large extent on the viability of the coconut industry and its improvement in the areas of production, processing and marketing.² It still proves to be true even in this time and age. In Caraga Region, coconut is recognized as the region's top permanent crop which has more than one year cycle.¹ Particularly in Dinagat Islands, as of 2019³, the province has a coconut production of 15,180.2 metric tons. Consequently, utilizing the available potential area of 4,647.01 hectares in the province will undeniably increase such production. To this, extensive assistance from PCA is deemed indispensable.

Further, it must be noted that nationally, besides low yield per tree and aging trees⁴, the supply chain of coconuts is largely unorganized and made up to dispersed small holdings that affect economies of scale in input supply, primary processing, and marketing. With the proper aid from PCA, the Province of Dinagat Islands is more than willing to help increase the yield of coconuts in the country. Not

1 ISSN 0116-4007 Census of Agriculture and Fisheries 2012

2 <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/1973/06/30/presidential-decree-no-232-s-1973/>

3 Province of Dinagat Islands Coconut Production Area & Number of Farmers by Municipality CY-2019

4 <http://pca.gov.ph/index.php/about-us/company-organization/directory/10-news/237-ph-coconut-industry-a-sleeping-giant>

only will it support our 9,345 Dinagatnon coconut farmers and the very industry, but will also abet in advancing our economy. Accordingly, the establishment of Dinagat's own PCA provincial office, in realizing this assistance, is hereby but proper.

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



ALAN B. ECLEO

Representative, Lone District of Dinagat Islands

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7397

Introduced by **Hon. ALAN 1 B. ECLEO**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINE
COCONUT AUTHORITY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BASILISA, PROVINCE OF
DINAGAT ISLANDS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established and maintained under the direct supervision of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), a PCA provincial office in the Municipality of Basilisa, Dinagat Islands to be known as the Philippine Coconut Authority Dinagat Islands Provincial Office for the purpose of ensuring the development and growth of coconut industry in the province, to the benefit therewith of the Dinagat coconut farmers.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of Department of Agriculture shall immediately include in the agency's programs the operationalization of the PCA Dinagat Islands Provincial Office, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of PCA. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued operation of said PCA provincial office shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within six (6) months following the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* Should any part or provision of this Act be held unconstitutional or invalid, the provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* Any other law, issuance or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,