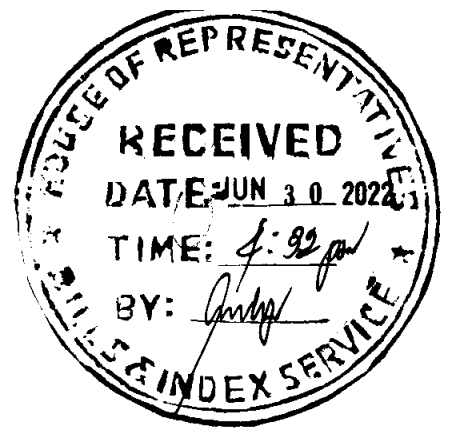


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 326



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks the establishment of a Provincial Office of the National Food Authority in the Province of Dinagat Islands.

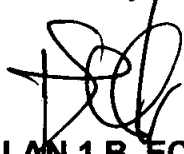
As provided for under P.D. 1770, also known as the National Food Authority Act, it is the declared policy of the State to promote the integrated growth and development of the food industry so it can adequately function as an institution conscious of its social responsibilities, capable of maintaining an adequate and continuous food supply, and contributing its proper share to the economy.

In realizing such a policy, the National Food Authority (NFA) has instituted various regional and provincial NFA offices to ensure sufficient rice supply in supporting the needs of provinces. However, inadvertent as it was, some provinces upon its creation were not bestowed with provincial branches of vital national agencies. These provinces include the Province of Dinagat Islands.

Created in 2006 pursuant to RA 9355, the Province of Dinagat Islands still flourishes to be a home that ensures food security to its people despite being geographically challenged. However, fourteen years have passed since its creation and it continues to be a looming problem of our province on how to survive impending food security challenges considering that it is still dependent on the allocation of the NFA office in Surigao City, Surigao del Norte. It must also be noted that there have been incidences of failure of rice allocation in our province – to the detriment of our people.

Hence, in view of the foregoing, it is undeniable that the establishment of an independent NFA Dinagat Islands Provincial Office shall be prioritized in keeping with the needs of the Dinagatnons especially in these times of pandemic and future calamities.

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


ALAN 1 B. ECLEO

Representative, Lone District of Dinagat Islands

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 326

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

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL FOOD
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 a Provincial Office of the National Food Authority in the Municipality of Basilisa, Province of Dinagat Islands, to be known as the National Food Authority Dinagat Islands Provincial Office, for the purpose of establishing an independent and sufficient rice buffer stocks sourced solely from local farmers especially during emergencies and calamities.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture shall immediately include in the Department's program the operationalization of the National Food Authority Dinagat Islands Provincial Office, the funding of which shall initially come from the savings of the National Food Authority. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the efficient operation and maintenance of the said 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 at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,