

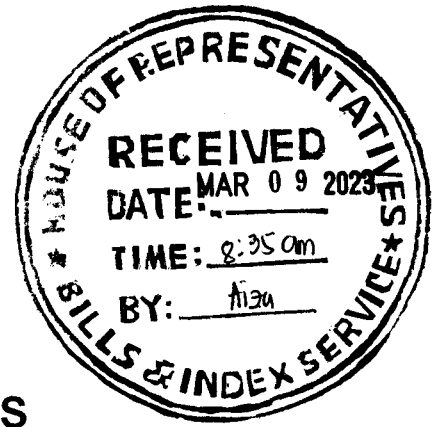
Republic of the Philippines

House of Representatives

Batasan Hills, Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7554**



Introduced by Representative Florencio Gabriel “Bem” G. Noel and
Representative Josephine Veronique “Jaye” R. Lacson-Noel

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A *Banig* is a handwoven mat usually used in Philippines for sleeping and sitting. Depending on the region of the Philippines, a mat is made of buri (palm), pandan, or sea grass leaves. The leaves are dried, usually dyed, then cut into strips and woven into mats, which may be plain or intricate.

Among the towns in the Philippines which is famous for intricately designed mats is the Municipality of Basey, Province of Samar. The mat production in Basey, Samar is an old but thriving industry. It is believed that the people of Basey had been weaving mats long before the Spaniards came in the Philippines. This century-old practice in Basey has been passed down from generation to generation and has developed into a flourishing household industry which became a prime source of livelihood specially among women in Basey, Samar.

The abundance of “*Tikog*” grass in the vicinity of Basey, without which mat making in Basey would not be possible, is a major factor of the success of the industry. The aforementioned grass is the primary material by which Basey mats are made. As of 2014, mat weaving industry occurs in 25 barangays involving 342 household in Basey, Samar and only a total number of 177 *tikog* suppliers to the local mat producers.¹ The use of *tikog* mat has expanded. Where once the age-old mat was used solely for sleeping, it now adorns modern walls or ceiling panels. It has been turned into bags, throw pillows, framed decors, as well as place mats and furniture matting. It is no surprise that there is now a scarcity of the raw materials to produce the mat due to the effect of super typhoon Yolanda. Basey was one of the most devastated areas in the region during the unforeseen disaster where its *tikog* was among the most damaged.

The declining trend of *tikog* mat industry in Basey requires some intervention from the national government for its swift recovery. In spite of rehabilitation efforts undertaken by the local government as well as by various organizations, the lack of capital investment, lagging technology, lack of

¹ “Product Chain of *Tikog* (*Fimbristylis Globulosa*) Mats in Basey, Samar Philippines” (2014)

engagement from the youth, among others, all contribute in stifling the industry from reaching its full potential.

Therefore, there is a need to protect, support and develop the *tikog* industry through the creation of Tikog Research and Development Center and Banig Subsidy Fund, as well as the recognition of Basey, Samar as the “Banig Capital of the Philippines”.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is respectfully requested.



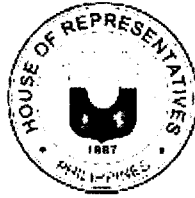
FLORENCIO GABRIEL “BEM” G. NOEL

*Representative
An Waray Party-list*



JOSEPHINE VERONIQUE “JAYE” R. LACSON-NOEL

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Malabon City, Lone District*



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HOUSE BILL NO. **7554**

Representative Florencio Gabriel “Bem” G. Noel and
Representative Josephine Veronique “Jaye” R. Lacson-Noel

AN ACT

**DEVELOPING THE TIKOG INDUSTRY, ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE
TIKOG RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND THE BANIG SUBSIDY FUND,
AND DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF BASEY IN THE PROVINCE OF SAMAR AS
THE “BANIG CAPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES”**

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 “*Tikog Industry Development Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* –

It is the policy of the State to give priority to culture to foster patriotism and nationalism and encourage and support researches and studies on culture. It is also the policy of the State to promote and support industries that generate wider employment, foster a sustainable economy, environment, and cultural resources of the nation. In pursuit thereof, the State shall recognize the importance of *Tikog* as a sustainable source of livelihood and catalyst for economic boost and cultural productivity.

It shall also be the policy of the State to foster the preferential use of locally-manufactured goods which utilize local resources. To this end, the state shall adopt measures that will make local industries competitive.

It is likewise the policy of the State to promote and accelerate the development and growth of the Province of Samar according to sound policies for economic, and social conditions of the people, as well as to preserve local culture, heritage and traditions.

SEC. 3. *Creation of the Tikog Research and Development Center.* – Within one (1) year from the approval of this Act, there shall be established a Tikog Research and Development Center in the Province of Samar which shall be attached to the Samar State University in Catbalogan City.

SEC. 4. *Functions of the Tikog Research and Development Center.* – The Tikog Research and Development Center shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- a) Undertake and conduct researches and technical studies on the development, production, management, and marketing of *tikog* and *banig* products and its other by-products;
- b) Publish research studies, papers, articles, and other works or writings relating to *tikog* and *banig*-weaving with the end goal of benefitting farmers, weavers, traders, and other stakeholders;
- c) Train faculty members and other research personnel who will undertake research studies on *tikog* and the *banig*-weaving traditions of the area in order to document and preserve them, and to create the body of knowledge necessary in the formulation of education and training programs designed to encourage the development of a creative mass of local artisans, and the pursuit of entrepreneurial activities that showcase locally-woven products;
- d) Formulate a Tikog and Banig-weaving Development Roadmap/Program;
- e) Formulate and Develop innovations in *tikog* propagation and *banig* production and development as well as provide for the transfer and improvement of appropriate technologies and techniques;
- f) Provide technical support and assistance for sustainable *tikog* propagation and *banig* production and other development activities to promote and provide adequate training to farmers and individuals and other stakeholders engaged in *tikog* propagation, and *banig* production, processing, and distribution in the Province of Samar;
- g) Develop and provide marketing tools and intellectual property protection framework for *Tikog* and *Banig* products and its other by-products, education and training programs for *tikog* and *banig* farmers, weavers, product makers and entrepreneurs;
- h) Establish standards in grading, sampling and inspection, tests and analysis, specifications, packaging, preservation, conservation and transportation of *tikog* and *banig* products and its other by-products;
- i) Assist and coordinate with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and other concerned government agencies for the participation of *tikog* farmers, *banig* farmers, weavers, traders and exporters in local and international conferences, trade fairs, expositions and exhibits;

- j) Assist and coordinate with the Department of Education (DepEd) and other concerned government agencies in developing and including a *Tikog* and Banig-weaving course in the curriculum of select Senior High Schools in the Province of Samar;
- k) Coordinate with the local government units as well as concerned government agencies and offices to consolidate all policies, programs and projects relating to *tikog* and *banig*-weaving research and development; and
- l) Perform such other functions and duties necessary or incidental to the promotion and development of the *Tikog* and *Banig*-weaving Industry and in the accomplishment of the goals and objectives of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Banig Subsidy Fund.* – To financially support and provide capital development to *tikog* and *banig* production, weaving, trading, skills training and other related activities there is hereby created a Banig Subsidy Fund which shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. *Banig Capital of the Philippines.* – To help promote the abovementioned public policy and further develop the local banig-weaving industry, the Municipality of Basey in the Province of Samar is hereby declared as the ***Banig Capital of the Philippines.***

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall, in collaboration with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and Samar State University, shall formulate and prescribe the necessary implementing rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the immediate implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The amount to be appropriated shall be used primarily for development of the *Tikog* industry, the Banig Subsidy Fund as well as to support the operation of the Tikog Research and Development Center.

SEC. 9. *Revolving Fund.* Any and all savings and income of the Banig Subsidy Fund and Tikog Research and Development Center shall constitute a revolving fund which shall not be reverted to the General Fund but shall be utilize in the furtherance of its goals and objectives.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,