

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7788



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a fish port with ice plant and cold storage facility in Barangay Lintangan, Municipality of Sibuco, Province of Zamboanga del Norte.

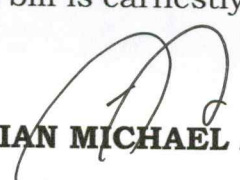
Under the Constitution, the State has a mandate to “protect the right of subsistence fishermen, especially of local communities, to the preferential use of the communal marine and fishing resources, both inland and offshore.” Moreover, the State must “provide support so such fishermen through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial, production and marketing assistance and other services.”

The Municipality of Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte has several fishing grounds rich in marine resources, as it faces the Sulu Sea. “High-valued species” of fish or those fish which have greater price in the market are caught in the municipality’s waters such as tuna, red grouper, Salay-salay Gint (scad), and cuttlefish.

This potential for high volume of fisheries production remains untapped, however, as most fisherfolk in the Municipality of Sibuco are small-time fisherfolk who have no means to store large quantities of fish. Worse, some fisherfolk have to travel farther to Zamboanga City in order to unload their fish catch, as there are few fish landing areas in Sibuco.

The establishment of a PFDA-managed fish port with ice plant and cold storage facility in Barangay Lintangan, Municipality of Sibuco will address these problems. It will also uplift the livelihood of, and provide adequate production and marketing assistance to, the subsistence fisherfolk in Sibuco and other nearby areas, in line with the State’s mandate under the Constitution.

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


ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FISH PORT WITH ICE PLANT
AND COLD STORAGE FACILITY IN BARANGAY LINTANGAN,
MUNICIPALITY OF SIBUCO, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE,
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, under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture, through the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA), a fish port with ice plant and cold storage facility in Barangay Lintangan, Municipality of Sibuco, Province of Zamboanga del Norte.

SEC. 2. Within two (2) years after the construction of the fish port with ice plant and cold storage facility, the PFDA, through a memorandum of agreement, shall transfer its management to the local government unit (LGU) concerned. It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for the local government personnel on the management and operation of the fish port with ice plant and cold storage facility.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of the fish port with ice plant and cold storage facility, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The LGU concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue the amount necessary for the operationalization of the fish port with ice plant and cold storage facility.

SEC. 4. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations on the supervision, monitoring, and transfer of the said fish port with ice plant and cold storage facility by the PFDA to the LGU concerned.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,