

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **8478**



Introduced by Representative CHING B. BERNOS

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The art of handloom weaving has been an integral part of the cultural heritage of our country, representing the practices and collective identity of various indigenous communities. Over time, the art of handloom weaving has experienced changes from being a form of recreational activity for indigenous communities and artistic expression of their respective beliefs to a source of income for weaver communities showcasing the diversity and creativity of Filipino craftsmanship.

In the Province of Abra, handloom weaving is a tradition that has been passed on through generations. The centrality of handloom weaving in Abreño culture reflects our dedication to preserving this one-of-a-kind tradition. The importance of handloom weaving in the Province of Abra and in the Filipino culture goes beyond its practical applications. Handloom-woven textiles are often used for traditional clothing, ceremonies, and rituals, making them essential elements of cultural expression and identity. This tradition represents the varying cultures of indigenous communities, with the use of different patterns and colors for specific events. It symbolizes our deep connection to our ancestral roots and is a testament to the rich and colorful tapestry of the country.

To date, there are around 450 weaving groups across the Philippines including the loom weavers community in Barangay Bulbulala, in the Municipality of La Paz, Province of Abra. According to *“Crafting Futures: Sustaining Handloom Weaving in the Philippines”* a report by the British Council, the weaving industry plays a vital role in rural employment and income source for women nowadays. A significant motivator in this persevering industry is its ability to provide livelihood opportunities for artisans, particularly women, who are often the primary weavers. It allows them to generate income and support their families while maintaining their cultural traditions. It contributes to the local economic development by promoting community-based enterprises and sustainable tourism.

Despite the efforts of handloom weaving communities to produce world-class textiles and preserve this time-honored tradition, the handloom weaving industry continues to face challenges with the impacts of globalization and recent developments in industrialization. Issues such as lack of consistent access to quality raw materials, limited market demand, inadequate support in infrastructure development, and insufficient assistance in promoting their handicrafts, are needed to be addressed with a multi-faceted approach. Above all, the younger generations in handloom weaving communities need the support of the government in order to conserve this tradition and provide stability to our handloom weavers.

Hence, this measure is crafted to recognize the importance of handloom weaving in our culture and address the abovementioned challenges. It is high time that we acknowledge the significance of this tradition and equip our handloom weavers with the development and protection they deserve.

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


REP. CHING B. BERNOS
Lone District of Abra

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

1 SECTION. 1. **Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the “*Philippine*
2 *Handloom Weaving Industry Development Act of 2023.*”

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

13 SECTION. 3. **Definition of Terms.** - For purposes of this Act, the
14 following terms are hereby defined as follows:

- 15 a. *Handloom* - refers to a device used in weaving fabrics by holding
16 the warp threads under tension to facilitate the interweaving of
17 the weft threads;

- b. *Handloom-woven fabric* - refers to fabric woven using a handloom;
- c. *Handloom weaving industry* - composed of the interrelated and interconnected component supply chain realizing the production of textiles through the handloom;
- d. *Neo-ethnic Philippines textiles* - refers to textiles made of or containing 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

SECTION. 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 Peoples 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. Head of the Philippine Creative Industry Development Council;
- h. The Representative of the Traditional and Cultural Expressions Domain of the Philippine Creative Industries Development Council as Member;

- i. Head of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines as Member;
- j. A representative of an accredited handloom weaving industry association as Member;
- k. Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Culture and the Arts as Member;
- l. Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Science and Technology as Member;
- m. Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship as Member;
- n. Chairperson of the House Committee on Science and Technology as Member;
- o. Chairperson of the House Committee on Trade and Industry as Member;
- p. Chairperson of the House Special Committee on Creative Industry and Performing Arts as Member;

SECTION. 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, the following:

- a. Formulation of the Handloom Weaving Industry Roadmap;
- b. Innovations in 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 a database of Philippine textiles;
- h. Development of Textile-related Technical and Skills and Vocational Programs; and

1 i. Education and Training.

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

4 SECTION. 6. **Appropriations.** - The amount of Ten Million Pesos (Php
5 10,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National
6 Treasury for the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such sums as
7 may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be appropriated as
8 a distinct and separate item.

9 SECTION. 7. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty
10 (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Director of the Philippine Textile
11 Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology, in
12 coordination with the Garment and Textile Industry Development Office of the
13 Department of Trade and Industry, the National Commission on Culture and
14 the Arts, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, the
15 Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority of the Department of
16 Agriculture, the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines, and the
17 Philippine Creative Industries Development Council shall promulgate
18 implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

19 SECTION. 8. **Separability Clause.** - If any provision or part thereof is
20 held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not
21 otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

22 SECTION. 9. **Repealing Clause.** - Any law, presidential decree or
23 issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or
24 regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby
25 repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

26 SECTION. 10. **Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
27 days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the
28 Philippines.

Approved,