

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 90



Introduced by Representative Wilbert T. Lee

RESOLUTION
URGING THE BANKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP) TO IMMEDIATELY
SUSPEND THE PRODUCTION OF P1,000 POLYMER BILLS AND REVERT
BACK TO USING ABACA FIBER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION ITS
IMPACT ON THE LIVELIHOOD OF OUR ABACA FARMERS IN
PRODUCING THE SAID BANKNOTE.

WHEREAS, last 2 December 2021, the Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) announced its plan to pursue the printing of Polymer 1,000 bills. The said polymer banknotes are expected to be in mid-2022. The BSP partnered with the Reserve Bank of Australia and its subsidiary Note Printing Australia for the production of the banknotes;¹

WHEREAS, considering that the said initiative is in its experimental stage, the BSP admitted that polymer bills costs a little bit more to print but is more durable compared to the original banknotes. They also revealed that its limited testing could displace around 0.1% or 0.2% of total abaca exports, representing about 210 to 481 jobs;²

WHEREAS, last 7 April 2022, the BSP declared that it will continue its plan to print 10 million pieces of P1,000 polymer banknotes as part of a limited circulation test this year. However, even the BSP is not certain about the sustainability of the said banknotes stating that “[the] said the test would help determine the effects of polymerization on hygiene and public health, environmental sustainability as well as the lifespan, durability and counterfeiting rates”;³

WHEREAS, last 27 June 2022, the BSP released its guidelines regarding the proper handling of the 1000 polymer banknotes. The said issuance stated that Filipinos should not write or put marks on the banknote, excessively fold or crumple the banknote, or cut, put holes,

¹ Manuel, P. (2 December 2021) *BSP: First batch of polymer ₱1,000 bills to arrive April 2022*; Australia to print banknotes. Retrieved last 20 July 2022 from: <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/business/2021/12/2/BSP-1st-batch-polymer-bills-April-2022.html?fb>

² Noble, L. (3 December 2021) *Polymer 1,000 bills to be circulated in mid-2022*. Retrieved last 21 July 2022 from: <https://www.bworldonline.com/banking-finance/2021/12/03/414827/polymer-1000-bills-to-be-circulated-in-mid-2022/>

³ Agcaoili, L. (7 April 2022) *BSP to issue 10 million pieces of P1,000 polymer banknotes*. Retrieved last 22 July 2022 from: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/04/07/2172786/bsp-issue-10-million-pieces-p1000-polymer-banknotes>

or staple them. The said guidelines also mentioned that the banknote should not be exposed to high temperatures. These “don’ts” list is totally contrary to the earlier claim of the BSP that the said notes are more durable and sustainable;⁴

WHEREAS, a post on social media went viral when a frustrated shopper posted that a mall cashier refused to accept her P1,000 polymer banknote because it was folded and slightly creased, making it unacceptable as legal tender supposedly in accordance with the proper handling guidelines of the notes by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP). There are mounting concerns from many Filipinos to date about the practical use of polymer banknotes has been expressed as a legal tender;⁵

WHEREAS, the Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) called on the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Friday to reconsider its decision to discontinue the use of abaca in making P1,000 bills. According to the FFF, The impact of this move toward polymer notes has reduced the market for the product, livelihood and income of 200,000 abaca farming families in 56 provinces. The spokesperson of the group also revealed that the BSP disregarded the concerns of the Department of Agriculture and abaca industry stakeholders by using polymer in producing the notes;⁶

WHEREAS, in their earlier pronouncements, the BSP avowed that these polymer banknotes were “tough” but as early as now, the current policy states that these newly printed banknotes should be “valued and handled with care.” Thus, the BSP enjoined Filipinos to not “excessively fold, crease, or crumple” the banknotes as doing so could “leave permanent fold marks.” Users were also told not to staple the notes nor use rubber bands to keep them together, and instead use paper bands which are totally impractical for Filipinos who are used to storing their bills in their pockets, purses, or their trifold wallets;

WHEREAS, the said initiative of the BSP to gradually shift our banknotes to polymer printing and tap foreign enterprises is injurious and detrimental to the livelihood of hundreds of thousands of local abaca farmers across the country. The BSP should seriously re-examine the impact of this move especially its repercussions on the Abaca farmers’ livelihood that is anchored on the traditional markets for abaca fiber, including the BSP’s Security Plant Complex, where all Philippine notes and coins are minted.;

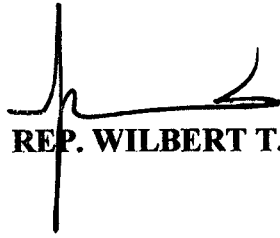
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to urge the Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to immediately suspend the production of P1,000 Polymer Bills and revert back to using Abaca Fiber taking into consideration its impact on the Livelihood of our Abaka Farmers in producing the said banknote.

Adopted,

⁴ Madarang, C. (27 June 2022) *Longer wallets needed: Eyebrows raised over BSP guidelines for new polymer bills*. Retrieved last 21 July 2022 from: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/trends-spotlights/2022/06/27/220579/longer-wallets-needed-eyebrows-raised-over-bsp-guidelines-for-new-polymer-bills/>

⁵ Baglic, C. (11 July 2022) *Social media post on rejected P1,000 polymer banknote goes viral*. Retrieved last 21 July 2022 from: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1626086/social-media-post-on-rejected-p1000-polymer-banknote-goes-viral>

⁶ Rivera, D. (16 July 2022) *Farmers’ group to BSP: Stop issuing polymer bills*. Retrieved last 21 July 2022 from: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/07/16/2195705/farmers-group-bsp-stop-issuing-polymer-bills>



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